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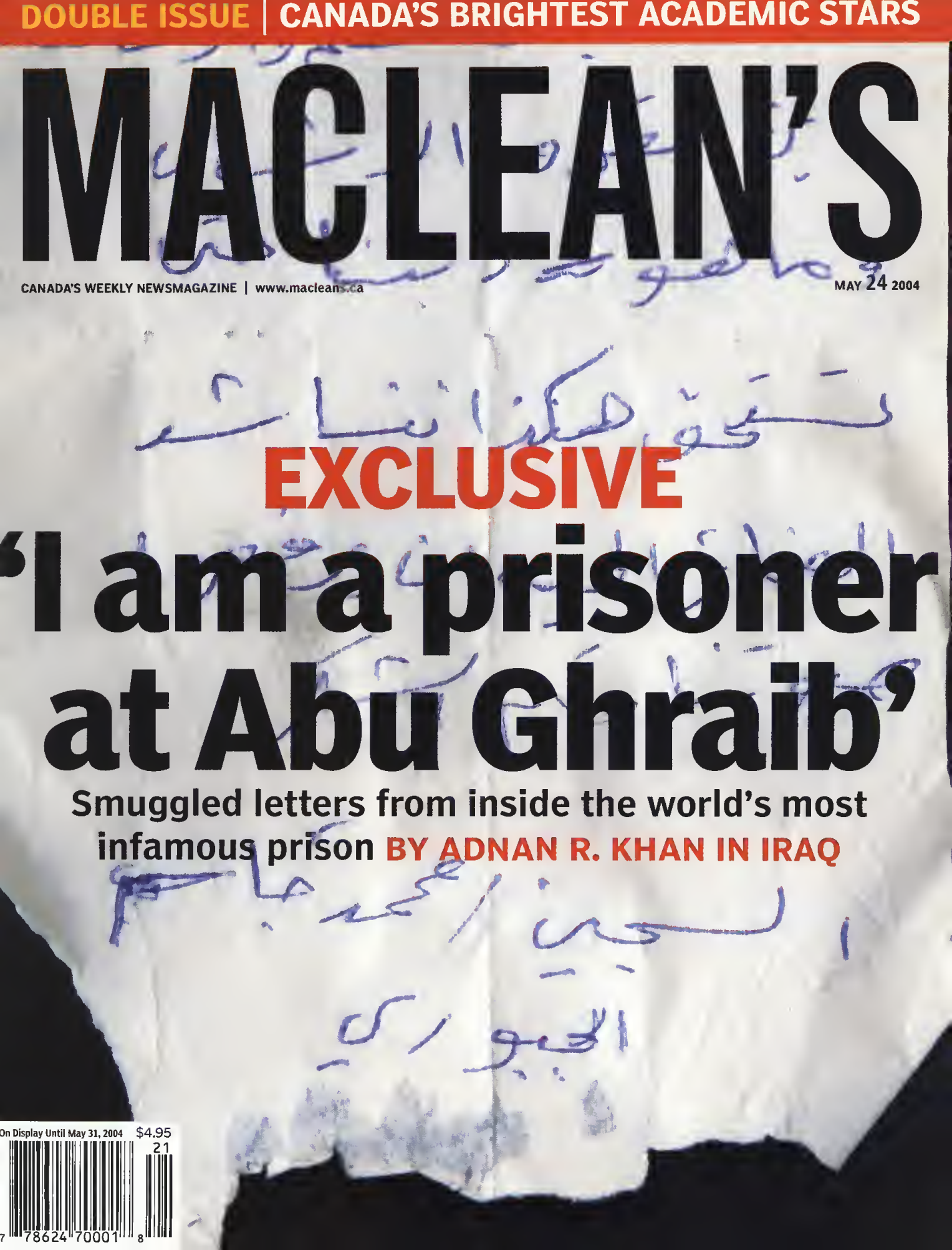
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EXCLUSIVE

'I am a prisoner at Abu Ghraib'

Smuggled letters from inside the world's most infamous prison

BY ADNAN R. KHAN IN IRAQ



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CONTENTS

DOUBLE ISSUE | MAY 24 | 31 2004



Cover
LETTERS FROM HELL At Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, 'torture usually begins at 12 and 3 p.m.'

FEATURES

30 | Politics
WORK IN PROGRESS Stephen Harper is changing his image—and that of the right.

49 | History
HOLIDAY HORROR On Victoria Day 1881, nearly 200 died in a ferry disaster.

50 | The Arctic
NORTHERN EXPOSURE Inuit communities' isolation is staggering. So are their problems.

54 | Drugs
PRESCRIPTION FOR RUIN Illicit OxyContin brings crime and addiction to Atlantic Canada.

60 | Middle East
BEYOND THE FENCE Despair and defiance among Palestinians in Jenin.

63 | Business
PUMPED UP OVER GAS It'll take more than a buck-a-litre summer to get us out of our SUVs.

67 | Society
DAWN OF A NEW OLD AGE Mandatory retirement at 65 may itself soon be retired.

74 | Royalty
HAPPILY EVER AFTER Royal weddings and rules of succession are setting new traditions.

JOHN MOORE/AP
COVER: PHOTOGRAPH BY ADNAN R. KHAN

CONTENTS



30 Stephen Harper is a Flames fan. Will you vote for him now?



Special Report
THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST 25 university stars—big dreams, brilliant futures

76 | Technology
STALKED BY A CYBERBULLY Kids use the Net and cellphones both for fun and torment.

78 | Trends
ROMANCING THE GAME The World Series of Poker brings out the glitz and the money.

81 | Television
NOT QUITE THE WIEBO I RECALL Wiebo Ludwig comes off as a crusader, not a saboteur.

82 | Film
MAGIC RED-CARPET RIDE Fairy tales clash with politics in Cannes' enchanted kingdom.

84 | Theatre
SHAW'S GAMBLE The festival re-energizes with Canuck plays and fresh approaches.

86 | Film
JAVA WITH JARMUSCH The rebel director gets stars to spar and mock their stardom.

90 | Money's Worth
BLINDED BY THE WHITE Teeth-bleaching products are a craze—but do they work?

JONATHAN HAYWARD/CP. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK ZIBERT



CONTENTS

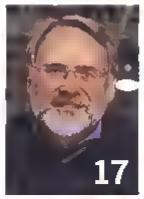
VOL. 117 NO. 21 | 22 WWW.MACLEANS.CA



Blond, buff and beloved in Cannes: Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt 82

UP FRONT

16 **India** The Gandhi path to power
17 **FaceTime** Ken Dryden, politician?
18 **British Columbia** A new avian flu scare
21 **Passages** Farewell to Eric Kierans



17

VOICES

6 **The Editor's Letter** Sharing demons in Iraq
8 **Letters** Canada's surreal real estate market
17 **Mansbridge on the Record** New rules of warfare
21 **Janigan on the Issues** Martin loses the grassroots
65 **Donald Coxe** Why business can't control its crooks
89 **Over to You** The unhandy homeowner's lament
96 **Paul Wells | The Back Page** Election '04: the score



90

CLOSING NOTES

93 **People** Melyssa Ford—the hip hop video queen
94 **Music** One Ring Zero
94 **Releases** Morrissey and the Organ
95 **Finish the sentences** Cal Ripken Jr.
95 **Best-sellers list**



PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE PIMENTAL (TOP) PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S
CHRIS WEEKS/AP PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S

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SHARING THEIR DEMONS

Fear and hatred aren't new emotions in Iraq—and they aren't going away soon

WHEN I MOVED to Moscow for this magazine in the late 1980s, the baggage I brought along included a set of preconceptions about the then Soviet Union and its people. I expected them to be essentially alike, instead, I discovered that among its nearly 290 million people were more than 100 different ethnic groups, and as many different languages, who lived in places and had personalities that could not have been more *un*alike. I expected life under a Communist regime to be repressive but relentlessly efficient, while the former was true, the mechanisms of government were dizzyingly slow and inefficient. The saving grace, inasmuch as there was one, was that people knew by then that their system was little more than a nasty joke, and the humour with which they discussed their lot made everything more palatable. When it came time to return to Canada several years later, I liked Communism even less than when I arrived—but I liked the people who lived under it a whole lot more.

It's almost always harder to hate people once you get to know them—which is why the most successful demonizing is usually done from afar. That distance isn't always defined in geographic terms. In Bosnia once, I travelled between Christian and Muslim villages a few kilometres apart. The residents and buildings in each looked near-identical—but the two sides shunned each other, so the gulf between them was as wide as a continent. A similar situation exists in Israel, where, to an outsider, it seems the only contact between Jews and Palestinians comes when one side tries to kill the other. But as Alexandre Trudeau writes in his third of a four-part series, everyday life is a mix of banality and brutality. Trudeau has previously written about his experiences living with an Israeli family. In this report (page 60), he moves to the fenced in Palestinian city of Jenin. "At first sight," he writes, "Jenin looks extremely ominous." But, he concludes, "after a few days, Jenin no longer appears so ominous—just desperate."

That word also describes the way any one would feel in the event they were incarcerated in the world's most infamous prison—Iraq's Abu Ghraib. It was a hellhole under Saddam Hussein—and it's no better under American control. Contributing Editor Adnan R. Khan's correspondence with prisoner Mohammed Jassim al-Jabouri forms the centrepiece of our cover package (page 22). The letters are short, simple—and more pointed as a result. "They subject us to many kinds of torture and humiliation," al-Jabouri writes, "like physical beatings, electric shocks, and even the rape of some honest men and women."

> **After enough violence, it doesn't matter which came first—the act of demonization, or the events that justify it**

Even as Americans reeled from the revelation that their own people have done things like that, they were further shaken by the beheading of civilian Nick Berg by an Iraqi group with al Qaeda ties. If they didn't before, Iraqis and Americans in that country now have ample reason to fear and loathe each other. They both want Americans to get out of Iraq—but that won't happen soon. In the meantime, the two sides know each other too well—or perhaps not at all. After enough violence and destruction, it no longer matters which came first—the act of demonization, or the events cited to justify it. Hatred is such a simple emotion to create—and ever so hard to chase away.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

response@macleans.ca to comment on The Editor's Letter

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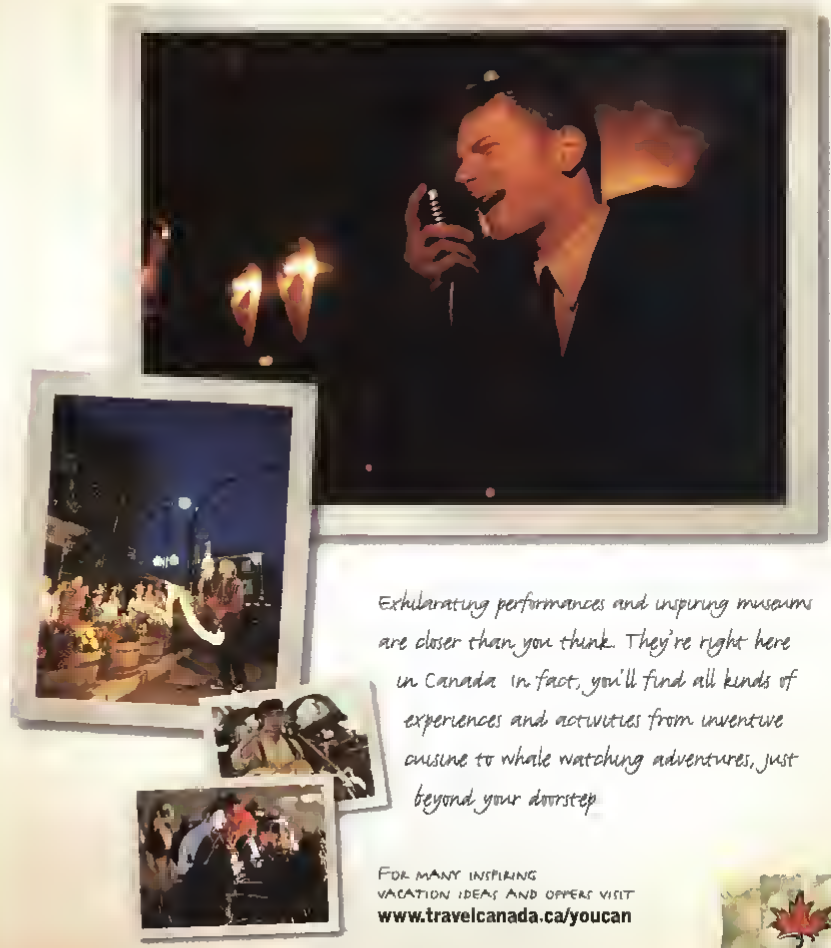
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'In the rising real estate market, the reality check won't happen as long as interest rates remain low. Can buyers handle a doubling in the next five years?' —Charles Leduc, Vancouver

Bubble trouble

It's quite frightening to see what's happening in our urban real estate market ("What bubble?" Cover, May 10). The upward spiral, of course, cannot continue forever. For the average Canadian, the prices seem unreasonable and out of reach now. Your article offered excellent, though sobering, information.

Faye Kiss, Saskatoon

What bubble? It is exactly this type of reporting that fuels the bubble. The examples given are just what those people sitting on the fence need to jump into the market. Then, the bubble bursts.

Peter Fedirchuk, Almonte, Ont.

Our children will learn that freedom is a lie and that reality is carrying debt to the grave in order to put a roof over your head.

Terry Burke, St. Catharines, Ont.

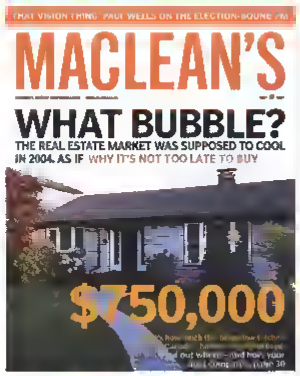
Rolling out the unwelcome mat

If Canada wants to attract and maintain quality immigrants, it is important to share stories emphasizing the need for change in professional accreditation policies ("Bound by red tape," Mary Janigan, May 10). My husband and I arrived from Argentina and gained permanent resident status in September 2002. He used to be an electrical engineer, and I say "used to be" because he still cannot find a job. I work as a dental administrator, but used to be a dentist. To become a dentist again I have to take a two-year, full-time qualifying program that costs $80,000. Sometimes I think we made a mistake in moving here. Who wants a country full of people that "used to be" something else, instead of being what they really want to be?

Carolina Blanco, Toronto

I am a high school student whose parents immigrated to Canada less than three years ago from Greece. Having worked as a geological/geophysical engineer for more than 20 years, my father believed it was reasonable to have hopes of getting a job here in the same field. He was wrong. He has constantly been rejected because he does not possess "Canadian experience." But at school I am taught that globalization is a major trend. I also have learned that Canada is one of the protagonists of this trend. Therefore, I wonder: since when does a country that promotes globalization ask for "domestic experience"?

Meisen Bahe, Hamilton



I am a professional in the aviation industry. I am certified and licensed to operate in Canada. When I applied to be licensed in the United States, I had to write exams and prove my ability to do the work according to *their* standards, not Canada's. Your article shows that some immigrants think Canada is a free ride. If they cannot qualify according to Canadian standards because of language or other skill deficiency reasons, why should Canada lower its standards to meet *their* requirements. It's up to the person involved to get qualified.

Gerard Patry, Ottawa

Freeing immigrants to use their skills to earn a living is a no-brainer. It will increase tax revenues to fund health care, ease skill shortages, reduce pressure on income-supplement programs and maybe even broaden the income tax base sufficiently to support a tax-rate cut. Yes, there are challenges in speeding integration—professional skills must still be assessed, fluency in French or English must still be shown. But the payoff remains substantial.

G. Bruce Friesen, Burnaby, B.C.

Oh Canada! | The regions will howl when they are omitted from the story

The first angry e-mail from Saskatchewan arrived shortly after we published our real estate cover. "I could not find one mention of our province," wrote Connie Lynch of Saskatoon. Added Edna Dubray, also of Saskatoon: "When doing a cross-Canada comparison, please include all the provinces. I'm sure P.E.I. and New Brunswick would also have appreciated being mentioned."

Gotta getta gun

I can feel the awkwardness that Jonathon Gatehouse must have felt being a Canadian at an NRA meeting ("Happiness is a warm gun," Letter from Pittsburgh, May 10). What disturbs me is that people are paranoid enough to necessitate the purchase of an assault rifle, or even a sniper rifle, to protect their loved ones from harm. Guns cause more harm than good behind the guise of protection.

Ariel Levy, Montreal

Jonathon Gatehouse works hard to propagate the myth of the redneck survivalist as a typical firearm owner. The truth is much different. Professionals, housewives and homeowners make up the majority of hunters and target shooters, and, for the most part, are people who you would be pleased to have as neighbours. In fact, you probably do have a number of firearm owners as neighbours. Oddly enough, they pose no risk to you whatsoever.

Robert Sciuk, Oshawe, Ont.

Condemnation

I have heard it said that the U.S. soldiers are not doing anything that Saddam has not done ("Fresh horrors," UpFront, May 10). But I must ask: If we use evil to fight evil, does not evil win?

Angela Miles, Innisfil, Ont.

One of the least attractive aspects of success, be it that of an individual or a country, is arrogance. This is fully apparent in the

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conduct of our neighbours to the south
Kirk Everett, Smiths Falls, Ont.

A soldier who carries out such unacceptable actions as we have seen in the Iraqi prison photos is a victim of poor leadership. President Bush is head of the U.S. government and commander-in-chief—he is ultimately responsible and, if he had any integrity, he would resign.
Carolina de la Calga, Vancouver

Wage cut free-for-all

In Newfoundland, we've again witnessed a typical Canadian labour pattern: governments solve budget problems by cutting salaries of civil servants ("Hi ho, it's back to work they go," Newfoundland, May 10). After a few weeks of strike, workers are legislated back to work by their employers—with imposed settlements rather than arbitration. Where's the equality when an employer can arbitrarily cut wages? What is the use of association rights if the bargaining units can't bargain? How is this unfairness justified in a free and democratic society? The courts have supported Parliament's right to end strikes. They might also limit the ability of employers to dictate labour agreements.
Ron Macnaughton, Bolton, Ont.

Trudeau's Israel

I would like to thank Alexandre Trudeau for his insightful article written while living and working in Israel ("This place is a salad," Israel, May 10). Having visited Israel twice and having had interaction with many of the people who live in that wonderful country, I can honestly say that no one will truly understand the complexity of that nation. Trudeau's last paragraph, commenting on two sides and two peoples who are forever stuck together, is timely. They are intricately intertwined in history, family, work and culture.
Wilma Vahrmeyer, Ridgeville, Ont.

> **Alexandre Trudeau is a contributor to a more harmonious life for Canadians. He's a chip off the old block.**

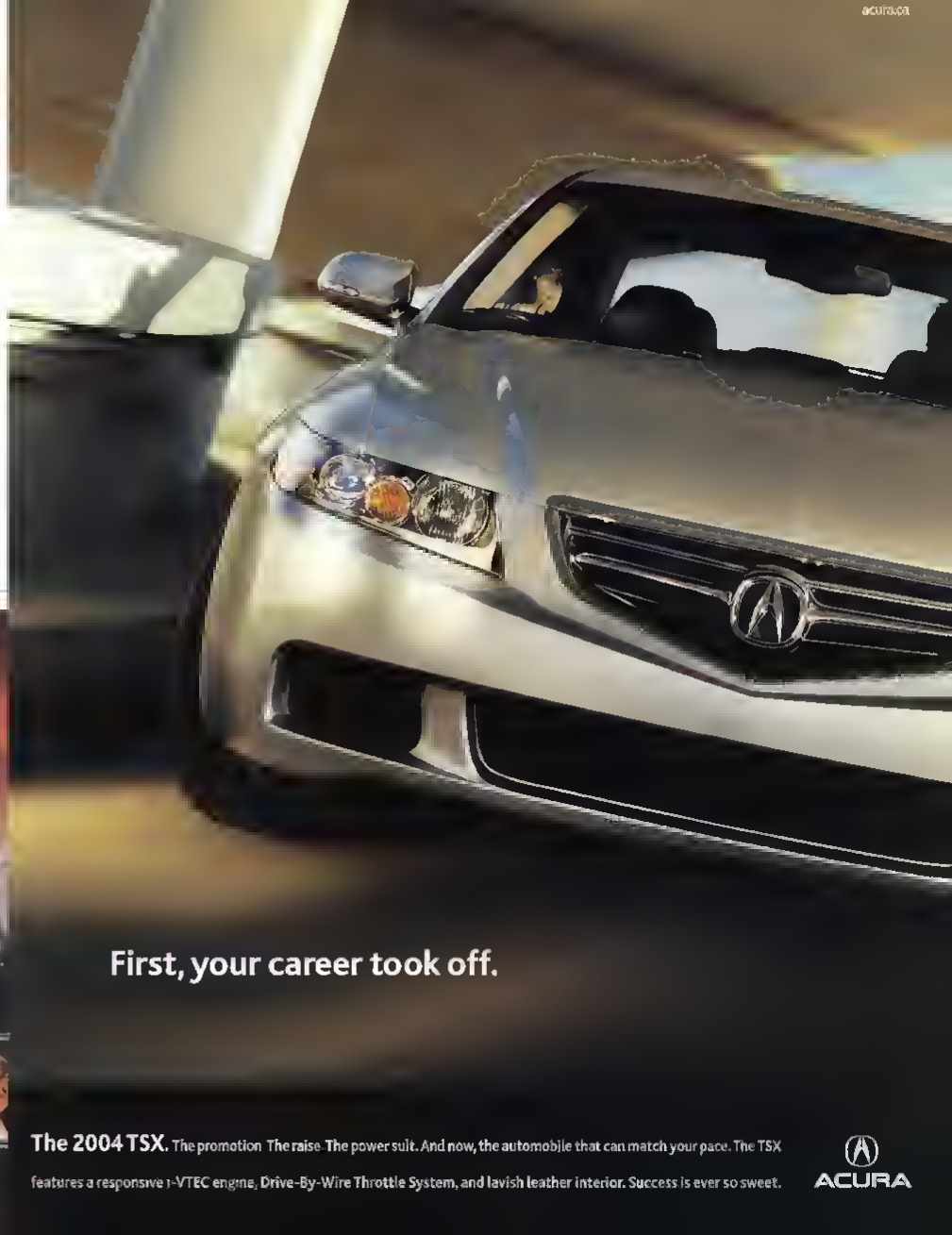
I have thoroughly enjoyed Alexandre Trudeau's coverage of Israel. It is refreshing to read an article about the Middle East without portrayals of violence and bloodshed.
Eren Bilgin, Ajax, Ont.

Alexandre Trudeau is not just a contributing editor for *Maclean's*. As well, he is a dedicated contributor to a more harmonious life for Canadians and for the whole human race. He's a chip off the old block.
Cy Poissant, Blairmore, Alta.

Speak no evil

Your portrayal of Canada as "The know it all neighbour" is a gross oversimplification (Cover, May 3). You seem to imply that Canadian people should not form an opinion about current events if those events involve the powerful country to the south. It sounds







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Citing our post Sept. 11 help for the U.S., a reader says Americans unfairly condemn us

TOM HANSON/CP

like a call to inaction and a retort to those with convictions to voice a negative opinion about the way the United States deals with its "special status" as global warlords.

Kyle Elder, Furukawa, Japan

It bothers me when I hear that Canadians have been rude or disrespectful. Not only is it impolite, but it is un-Canadian. However, I do think we are being unfairly condemned by the Americans interviewed in your article. When it mattered on Sept. 11, we opened our airports and our homes. Our rescue workers went to New York City to help, and our troops went to Afghanistan to fight with our allies. But those interviewed chose not to remember our contributions and support. Instead, Fred Edwards is angry because we did not join in his bar fight to bring about regime change in Iraq, and Steven Schlein no longer considers Canada his ally. How can we appease these few men with selective memory?

Karen Csoli, Hamilton

A superpower such as the U.S. has no friends, only compliant sycophants.

John Tagg, Toronto

Defending Joe Clark

I am writing to condemn the recent comments by John Reynolds, my member of Parliament. He characterized Joe Clark as a "traitor" after Clark said he would prefer Paul Martin over Stephen Harper in the next federal election ("Blue Tories, Up Front," May 10). Reynolds's comments were beyond belief. Clark was first elected as a Progressive Conservative MP in 1972 and never once joined another political party. This is in stark contrast to Reynolds, who has belonged to five separate political parties since entering public life. Clark has remained true to his view of progressive public policy, which the mainstream of Canadians cherish.

Elbert K. Paul, Bowen Island, B.C.

True picture

Year after year during the seal hunt we hear the same outraged lament about the brutal man raising his hooked cudgel to batter to death a very small and terrified animal (The Mail, May 17). Has any one of these readers ever had the guts to go to the local abattoir to find out where their Saturday steaks for the barbecue come from? What about their spare ribs? Their chicken tenders? Their veal scaloppine? It's not a pretty sight, but it's out of the public eye, and that's where the seal hunt differs—it's in the public eye, photographed by every journalist trying to make a name for him/herself at the expense of our neighbours to the east.

Nancy Watt-Durant, Bracebridge, Ont.

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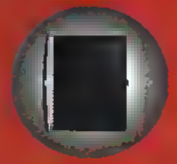
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MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH-JANE PEARCE

MACLEAN'S INTRODUCES THE FUTURE

If you didn't know he was a rising star in the world of neuroscience, Jeff Biernaskie (above) might strike you as a pretty regular Canadian guy. But the 28-year-old, with a Ph.D. from Memorial University's faculty of medicine in St. John's, has the all-around qualities of good humour, intellect and mentoring skills that prompted his alma mater to nominate him for this week's special report, "The best and the brightest."

Introducing Canadians to the young people who will shape the nation is something that *Maclean's* has been doing since 1961 when another special report, "The young Canadians: the stiffening spine of a soft generation," uncovered a host of future leaders, including a young Tory from Quebec, 21-year-old Brian Mulroney and Toronto law student Ted Rogers, then 27, who now owns this magazine. Also in the package was a short story by Adrienne Poy, 22, known today as Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson.

This year, *Maclean's* enlisted the support of Canadian universities to identify individuals to consider for "The best and the brightest" package. Editorial Large Ann Dowsett Johnston—also editor of the annual *Macleen's Guide to Canedien Universities*—drew on her expertise to lead the editorial team that profiled this year's young leaders.

"This was a chance for the universities to identify their promising young stars," says Dowsett Johnston. "And the final 25 are a remarkable group: brilliant, compassionate and determined. If the future belongs to them, we all have reason for optimism."

"As a supervisor of graduate students, you hope to get one or two students like Jeff in your entire career," says Dr. Dale Corbett, Senior Canada Research Chair in Stroke and Neuroplasticity at Memorial University, who oversaw Biernaskie's research on the effects of post-stroke rehabilitation.

Today, Biernaskie is a research fellow at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children in a medical team unlocking how stem cells from human skin could be used to treat diseases like Parkinson's.

You'll want to take note of Biernaskie and the 24 others identified in this year's 12-page package. They're just getting started.

Help shape what's inside *Macleans*. To register as a member of the *Macleans* Advisory Panel, go on-line to *www.macleans.ca/webpanel*
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ScoreCard

BONO
It's a beautiful day for U2 front man. Extracts $170 million in commitments from PM (and fan) Paul Martin for Third World AIDS therapies. Pre-election ploy leaves voters grateful. Martin's musical tastes don't run to Michael Jackson. Neverland North anyone?

D-DAY VETS
Sixty years after storming Juno Beach, old soldiers win another one. Get $1,000 travel subsidy for D-Day ceremonies in France. Veterans Affairs Minister John McCallum caves under verbal barrage—and bad election optics.

AUSTRALIA
National treasurer Peter Costello offers $2,900 incentive per baby to boost population. Parents have "patriotic duty" to raise three children. One for mom, one for dad, "one for your country." Just don't expect the nation to assist with 3 a.m. feedings.

SWEDISH UNDIES
Swedish army's loss of 3,195 pairs of green camouflage underpants raises questions: do camo undies do a better job of hiding privates? What combat requires semi-naked soldiers to hide? Night manoeuvres?



India | A third Gandhi shows her party the path to power

India's latest election shows what can happen when people who might otherwise be considered dispossessed exercise their right to vote. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who had led the country since 1999, was so certain of being returned to office that he called the election six months early. Not one poll or pundit predicted defeat for Vajpayee and his Bharatiya Janata Party, which ran an American-style campaign with the slogan "India Shining"—a reference to the nation's booming economy. But when the ballots cast over a 21-day period were tallied last week—the first time India used electronic voting machines—the BJP and its coalition partners were swept out of office. Vajpayee, 79, conceded defeat and resigned.

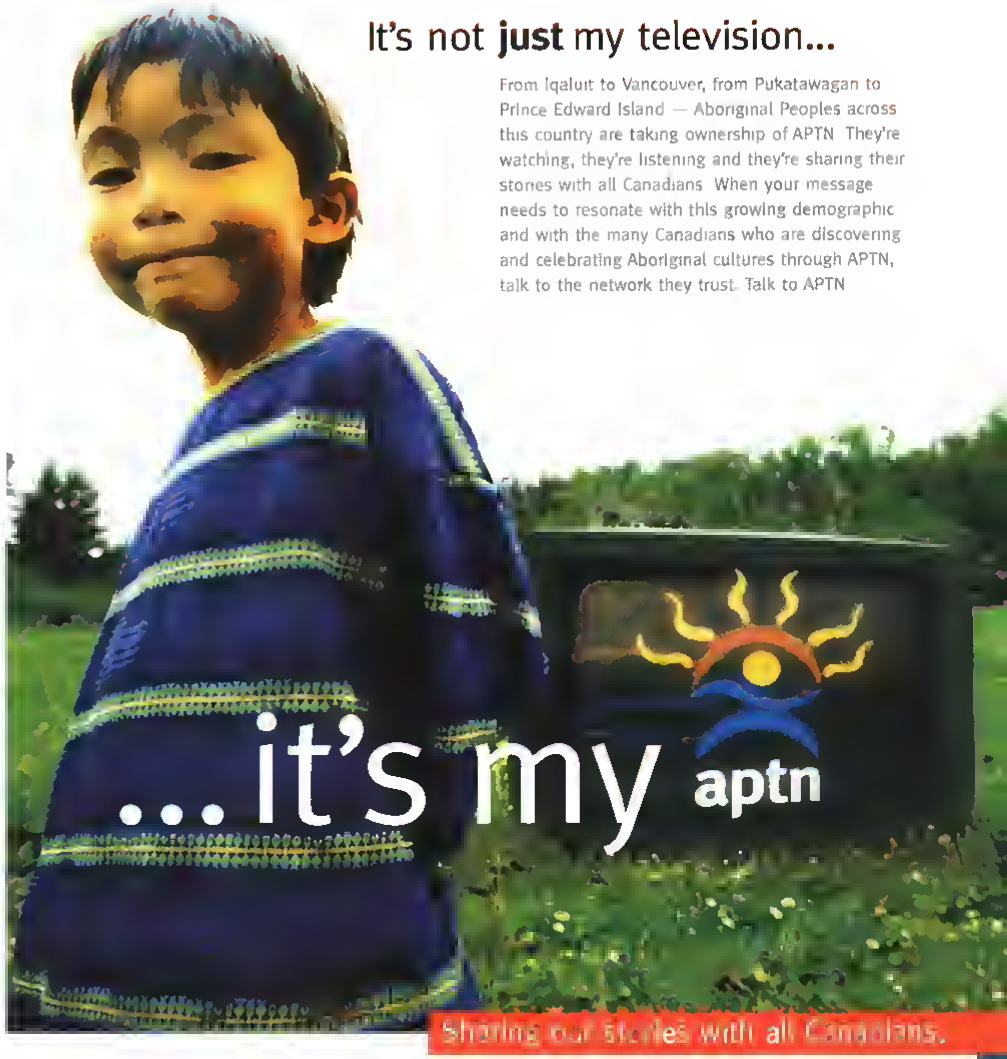


The upset win by Sonia Gandhi and the Congress Party prompted celebrations in New Delhi (above)

The big winner was the Congress Party, led by Sonia Gandhi, 57, the widow of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991. Congress and its allies captured enough votes to form a majority in the 539 seat parliament, though it wasn't immediately clear whether the Italian-born Gandhi would become prime minister. It was her idea to target voters in impoverished rural India who hadn't benefited from the BJP's economic reforms. And unlike in some western democracies, where the wealthiest are most likely to vote, it is the poor in India who turn out in the greatest numbers. Analysts also attributed the election upset in part to Congress's secular platform, a repudiation of the BJP's Hindu-first nationalism.

Quote of the week | 'The Black Group used Hollinger as a cash cow to be milked of every possible drop of cash.' From the amended lawsuit Hollinger International Inc. filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago seeking US$1.25 billion in damages

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SURINDER SAHAR



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Mansbridge on the Record



THE RULES OF WARFARE

Since 9/11, our definition of 'acceptable behaviour' has changed—for the worse

I'M A SUCKER for magazine tribute issues. I've got boxes of them in my basement—JFK, the space program, Watergate.... The other day, I added a new one. "D Day. The 60th Anniversary" is the focus. The pictures are remarkable—the "greatest generation" hitting the Normandy beaches to end Nazi control of Europe. One image made me pause: it showed U.S. troops in a French town mixing with local men and women. They were laughing and smiling at the sight, visible at their feet, of a dead German soldier. The photo, first published in the summer of 1944, is similar to ones you see of Canadian and British troops in the same situations. Those images were embraced by a public back home that had been taught for almost five years to hate their enemy as evil incarnate.

It's hard to imagine a scene today where U.S. soldiers—or Canadian or British—would pose for photos while laughing over a kill. But after viewing the Abu Ghraib prison abuse pictures, it's possible to imagine them posing for each other next to live Iraqis ordered, perhaps at gunpoint, into humiliating positions. The pictures have horrified the world, set back the cause of Iraqi democratization, and, in George W. Bush's own words, "stained the honour" of the United States. But how surprised should we be? After 9/11, the rules of acceptable behaviour seemed to change: there was a lot of winking and nudging about how the United States was going to extract information from captured "terrorists."

> **"The Abu Ghraib pictures have horrified the world, and, in Bush's own words, 'stained the honour' of the United States"**

Even some respected voices in the U.S. civil liberties community suggested that torture, under certain conditions with judicial approval, could be acceptable. Third countries have been used—I've heard no one dispute this—to conduct the kind of interrogation deemed unlawful in the United States. They even have a term for it: "extraordinary rendition." Hollywood put sequences into productions showing U.S. agents waiting outside torture chambers located in friendly countries in the Middle East and Asia while the dirty work was done by others. The audience reaction? Cheers. Does Canada have a position on all this? Two years ago, Canadian forces were shown in Afghanistan capturing suspected al Qaeda members and handing them over to American interrogators. What happened to those people? Are our special forces still doing the same? No one wants to say.

Where was the outrage before this round of pictures? Somehow, it all seemed clean when there was no documented proof of nasty things happening. Welcome to the age of the digital camera and the Internet, and welcome to Iraq's Abu Ghraib. Keep in mind that some Pentagon investigation findings suggest abuse didn't only happen there: it has also been raised as a concern in detention centres in Afghanistan.

In a few weeks, we will remember, as we should, those brave young Canadians who died during the battles on the Longest Day—June 6, 1944. They fought a brutal war, and for those who survived, the experience changed them forever. They helped save a continent from Fascist oppression, and in doing so, they saw things they wished they never had. War is ugly, and always has been. Comparing what's happening in Iraq and Afghanistan to what happened in Europe 60 years ago would be foolish and unfair—but defining the borders of acceptable ugliness can sometimes be very difficult.

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of *The National*. To comment: letters@macleans.ca

FaceTime

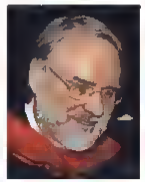
Black days

Things took a turn for the worse for Barbara Amiel. First, an amendment to the Hollinger International Inc. lawsuit against her husband, former Hollinger International chairman Conrad Black, named her as a co-defendant. Then London's *Daily Telegraph*, suspended her regular column—because she is now named in the suit. Amiel continues to write a column for *Maclean's*.



The puck stops here

The Toronto Maple Leafs are out of the playoffs, and now club president Ken Dryden may be out of the front office. The former star goalie, lawyer and author was considering running as a Liberal candidate in the Toronto riding of York Centre. It's been held since 1993 by former Toronto mayor Art Eggleton, who's agreed to step aside. We know Dryden could stop the puck, but can he handle political cheap shots?





Arms and the man

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is getting a coat of arms from Scotland's heraldic authority. Non-British subjects cannot directly receive arms, so Powell applied on behalf of his late father, Luther Theophilus Powell, born and raised in Jamaica. The Scottish connection is through his mother, Maud Ariel McKoy, whose family hails from there.



Justice delayed

In 1955, Emmett Till, 14, of Chicago was dragged from bed in Money, Miss., while visiting relatives. The black youth was beaten, shot and dumped in the Tallahatchie River—for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Two white men charged with his murder were acquitted by an all white jury, they later bragged about committing the crime (the two have since died). Now, the case is finally being reopened.

LAUREN BURKE/AP (TSP); LOUIS LANZANO/AP; MAMIE TILL MOBLEY FAMILY/AP-TED PITTMAN/DHAL FAX CHRONICLE HERALD/CP

WORLD

MIDDLE EAST Violence continued in Gaza, with 13 Israeli soldiers and more than 26 Palestinians dead by week's end. The clashes came amid a fiery debate in Israel over withdrawing from the territory.

AGRICULTURE St. Louis, Mo.-based Monsanto announced it had halted a plan to introduce the world's first genetically modified wheat. U.S. farmers had expressed concerns that GM wheat would harm U.S. wheat exports. The company is concentrating on GM corn, cotton and soybeans.

CHECHNYA Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to avenge a May 9 bombing in Grozny that killed six people at a ceremony commemorating victory over Nazi Germany. Among the dead was Akhmad Kadyrov, installed by Putin as president in 2000.

GREECE A makeshift bomb exploded in Athens, only eight days after three explosions outside a police station heightened concerns about safety at the upcoming Olympic Summer Games. A fringe political group claimed responsibility for last week's incident—saying it was protesting the heavy security measures for the Games.

PHILIPPINES Official results will take a month to come in, but President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo appeared likely to have won re-election in the May 10 vote. Her rival was action-movie hero Fernando Poe Jr.

ARISTIDE South Africa said it would offer



sanctuary to deposed Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide until his own country stabilizes. Aristide fled rebel forces on Feb. 29, going first to the Central African Republic and then Jamaica.

NIGERIA Religious violence continued after a recent massacre of up to 600 Muslims by Christian militia. Officials said more than 30 people were killed when mobs went on an anti-Christian rampage in the northern city of Kano, where Christians are a minority, but others claimed the death toll was well into the hundreds.

PRESSURE Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito embarked on a European tour without his wife, Princess Masako, who is reportedly suffering from exhaustion and depression. The prince has attributed her illness to trying to cope with life in the overly bureaucratic imperial household.

UFO FEVER Mexican air force pilots captured video images of a series of bright lights that appeared to be following them. One UFO expert said the video was "historic," but the newspaper *La Jornada* dismissed the uproar as a "circus." Sightings of alleged UFOs are common in Mexico, and are for the most part dismissed by scientists.

BRAZIL President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva came under fire for the expulsion of the Rio de Janeiro bureau chief for the *New York Times*. Larry Rohter had written about concerns over da Silva's alleged drinking. Da Silva said Rohter had maliciously attacked the presidency.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN Shades of Carl Hiaasen. A troubled 18-year-old boy was arrested for shattering an office-building window in Clearwater, Fla. Since 1996, the window had attracted thousands of pilgrims who thought they saw the image of the Virgin Mary in the multi-hued glass.

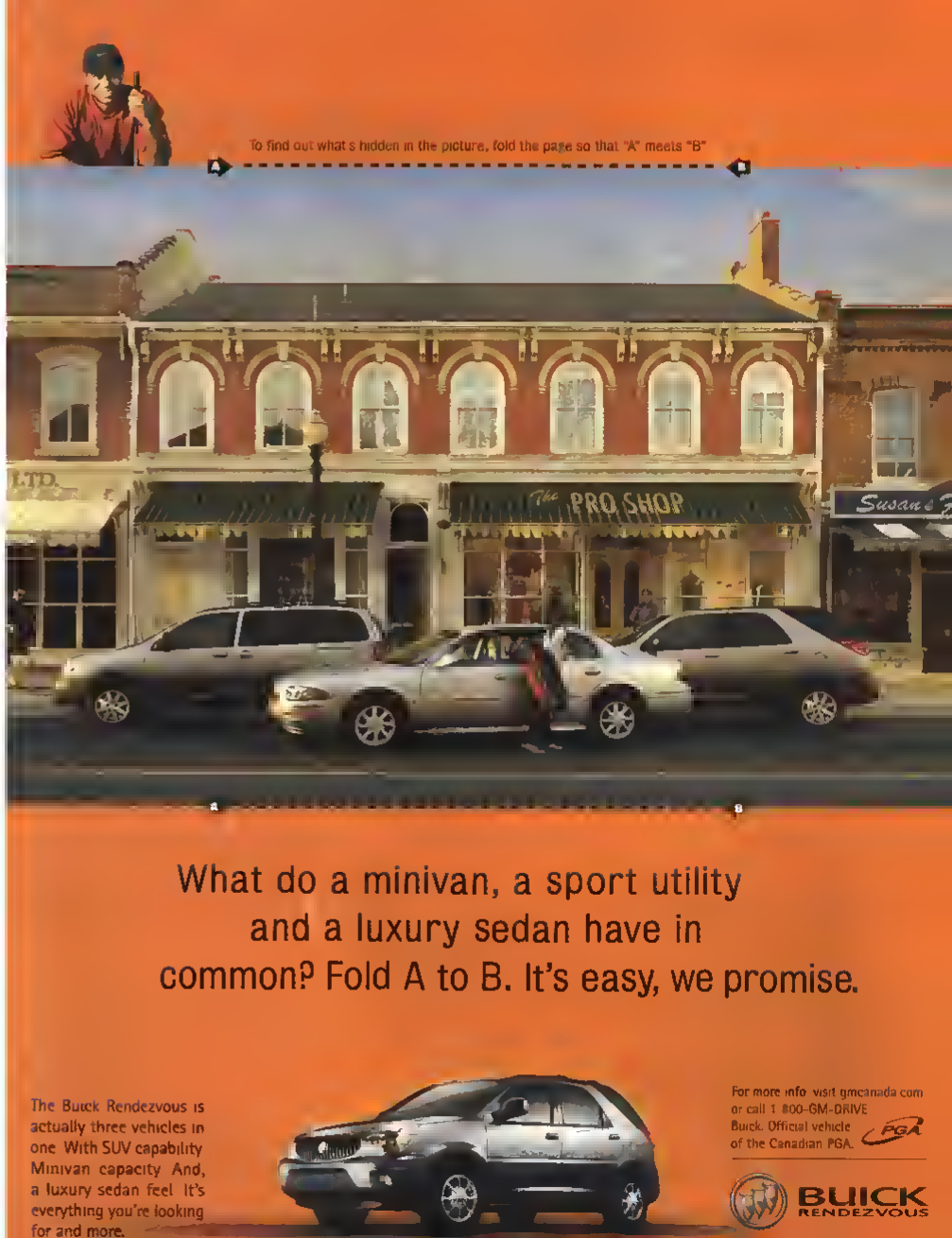
SEX AND SPIES In a deal with prosecutors, former FBI agent James J. Smith pleaded guilty to concealing a two-decade-long affair with



B.C. SCARE

A new strain of bird flu on a Fraser Valley goose and duck farm raised fears that it could be the H5 virus, which has killed people in Asia. But tests determined that the virus was the H6 strain, not known to cause serious animal or human illness. Another variant, H7, has already resulted in the cull of some 19 million Fraser Valley fowl.

AP PHOTO/ RICHARD LAM/CP



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BUICK RENDEZVOUS

a suspected Chinese double agent. Smith will likely avoid prison, and authorities will be spared sharing classified documents with his lawyers. His former lover, Chinese-American businesswoman Katrina Leung, is facing five charges.

YESTERDAY Too loud—that was the reaction of irate east London residents to the noise coming from the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, on the other side of the Thames. Greenwich town council asked Paul McCartney and his band to turn it down. The former Beatle was practising for a tour.

CANADA

PHONE PORN Matthew Kalijarvi, 20, of Sudbury, Ont., was found guilty of child pornography charges and sentenced to half a year in jail for surreptitiously taking nude photos of his **17-year old girlfriend** and posting them on the Internet. Pictures of slightly older women he'd dated also appeared on the Web.

TAR PONDS Ottawa and the Nova Scotia government announced **a $400 million plan** to clean up the infamous Sydney tar ponds. Under the plan, some contaminated sediment will be removed and destroyed, while the rest is encased in plastic and buried.

PLAGIARISM After launching into a defence of Gen. Augusto Pinochet in the legislature, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein tabled a university essay he'd written about the former Chilean strongman. Academics and others determined that the plagiarizing premier took large parts of the paper from Internet sources **without properly crediting them.**



BONO CAME to town—Ottawa, to be exact—to laud Prime Minister Paul Martin's recent commitments to fighting HIV/AIDS, among them giving $100 million to the World Health Organization to bring anti-retroviral drugs to AIDS patients in developing countries. But the U2 singer also called on Canada to further increase its foreign aid spending. It stood at $2.87 billion last year, and is slated to rise to $3.1 billion next year and $3.35 billion in 2005.

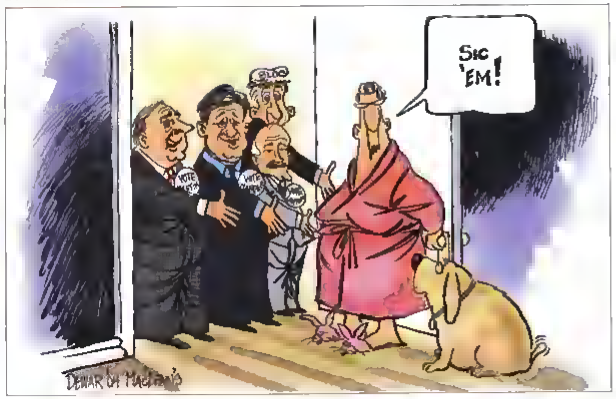
HEALTH Canada's new National Microbiology Laboratory, patterned after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, will be based **in Winnipeg.** The impetus for it came from a report last October into the SARS crisis.

MURDER MYSTERY On May 7, Stacy-Ann Sappleton, 26, of Tecumseh, Ont., flew to New York City to discuss wedding plans with her future in-laws. She disappeared, last week her body was **found in a garbage truck** about eight kilometres from her intended in-laws' home. She had apparently been kidnapped and shot.

D-DAY After mounting criticism over its plan to include only 60 vets in the official party going to commemorate D-Day in Normandy, Ottawa said it would **commit another $1 million** so more could go. But travel agents say hotel rooms in the area are booked solid.

FIREBOMBING Montreal police arrested five people in connection with a firebombing at a Jewish elementary school in the city on April 5. The five face **arson, mischief and conspiracy** charges.

BY SUSAN DEWAR



TOM HANSON/CP

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Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



RALLYING THE TROOPS

Close elections are fought in the trenches—and that's where Martin is in real trouble

POLITICAL PARTIES are fragile creations, built on elaborate webs of loyalties. So perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the coming election is: will the Liberals' last-minute efforts to heal party rifts save them from needless losses? Will their recruitment of Chrétien backroom expert, savvy Senator David Smith, as a special senior adviser bring harmony? Will the hasty inclusion of experts who supported other leadership rivals get others into the trenches? Smith is upbeat. "Being inclusive is fundamentally strategic," the former campaign chairman says. "At the end of the day, we do act like a family."

It will be a near thing. The Martin group made the unusual decision to burn all bridges with the Chrétien regime after the auditor general's damaging report on sponsorship abuse last February. Key posts in the party and the government were kept for the Martin clan. Many loyalists were offended, voters were bewildered. It was a disaster.

And it showed—in so many ways. In early May, a tiny flock of rural Ontario MPs told Martin in an emotional private meeting they were going to lose their seats because the government appeared stale and unproductive. Heavy-handed Martin loyalists intervened in riding associations from B.C. to Ontario, dictating who should run. When the Martin folks did leave a nomination battle open, they were so disorganized their preferred candidate lost: lawyer John Kazanjian was defeated in a brutal battle in the Toronto riding of retiring Chrétien loyalist David Collenette. Only one quarter of Canadians believe the government deserves another chance: that number historically hovers in the 50s. Insiders say the coming election platform is nebulous. And those much-touted negative ads attacking the Tories make no mention of what the Liberals would do in contrast. "These guys are learning the hard way," sighs one backroomer.

> "When Liberals on the ground don't select their own candidate, will they still go door-to-door at election time?"

The clumsiness could not have come at a worse time. As University of British Columbia political scientist Ken Carty has pointed out, parties are odd 19th-century relics that connect "a diverse plural society to a set of inherited old-world governing institutions." They survive because the local riding associations operate like franchises: they run their own affairs such as selecting their candidate, in return, the MP, once elected, must follow the leader. But what happens when Liberals on the ground don't select their own candidate or see the party's record trashed? Will they still go door-to-door for that candidate?

That's when loyalists are really needed. Mount Allison University political scientist Bill Cross says the traditional role of parties has been largely usurped: consultants run the national campaign, pollsters survey the mood—and advertisers inform the voters. It is only during leadership or nomination battles or local canvassing that volunteers play pivotal roles. Yet their very presence could make the difference in close races.

Parties themselves are already endangered species. Party participation rates in Canada are among the lowest in Western democracies: only one to two per cent of the population. In a recent survey of all parties, Cross put the average age of members at 59; 90 per cent were born in Canada. It is these disconcerted folks that Martin must woo. Fast. The strain is enormous. "People are saying we bounced and discredited Chrétien for this?" marvels one veteran. Fighting the election could be child's play compared to wooing back the party. M

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. maryjanigan@macleans.rogers.com

Passages



DIED Eric Kierans' political career began as a speech writer for Liberal candidates in the 1935 election. After heading up the Montreal and Canadian stock exchanges, the federalist Quebecer was first elected to the province's legislature in 1963. He lost the federal Liberal Party leadership race in 1968 to **Pierre Trudeau**, but was named postmaster general and then communications minister. He later lent his reasoned voice to CBC radio's *Morningside* panel. Kierans, 90, died in a Montreal hospital following a stroke.

DIED In an infamous medical foul-up, Winnipegger **David Reimer** was born a boy but raised as a girl after a botched circumcision. Reimer learned of the mistake when he was a teenager and started living as a man. He married and adopted three children. Reimer, 38, suffered from depression and committed suicide on May 4.

AWARDED **Stephen Williams**, the author of two controversial books about **Paul Bernardo** and **Karla Homolka**, won a $5,000 grant from Human Rights Watch—an international organization that supports victims of political persecution. The money helps cover some of the legal costs Williams has incurred defending his work in court.



CHARGED Former head of the Liberal sponsorship program **Chuck Guité** and Groupaction Marketing Inc. president **Jean Brault** each face six fraud-related charges. Guité, 60, and Brault, 51, pleaded not guilty and could face a maximum penalty of 60 years in jail.

EXITING Former prime minister **Joe Clark**, 64, left the House of Commons for the final time, planning to spend his retirement consulting, teaching and writing his memoirs. Liberal MP **Sheila Copps**, 51, announced she won't run in the next federal election, ending a colourful two decades in politics.

DOUG BALL/CP (TOP); IVANAH DEMERS/LA PRESSE/CP

OUT OF CONTROL

U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners. Militants beheading an American ccactor. Does *anyone* have an exit strategy, asks CHARLIE GILLIS.

AFTER DAYS on end of disgrace, fear and loathing, even recycled good news can feel welcome. So when Jessica Lynch spoke last week at a college graduation ceremony in Montgomery, W. Va., the media turned out in force. For Americans, the 21-year-old's tale of survival after being captured last year by Iraqi troops had been one of the war's defining, uplifting moments—embellishments and all. But no sooner had Lynch finished her speech than current events intruded: how, a reporter asked, did she feel about that other defining icon of America's beleaguered mission—Pte. Lynndie England?

Good question. both Lynch and England hail from West Virginia, both are 21, and both had chosen the military as their route out of the boondocks. But Lynch could be forgiven for killing the storyline with a curt "no comment." While her own canonization proceeds apace, with movie offers and US$1 million book deals, England's disgrace ranks as one of the most complete in U.S. military history. Photos showing the reservist grinning and pointing at the genitals of Iraqis imprisoned at Abu Ghraib, or holding a naked inmate by a leash, have appeared in newspapers around the world.



Privates England (left) and Lynch are bookends to a mission gone horribly awry

Now, she and Lynch are bookends to a mission gone horribly awry: while the latter's rescue in April 2003 marked a high point in the U.S.-led invasion, bringing hope and optimism as troops prepared to enter Baghdad, England is now the face of a corrupted and compromised occupation—a woman whose prospects worsen by the day. Less than 24 hours after she defended herself on a Denver TV station, claiming she'd been following the orders of superiors, new photos emerged of England with fellow prison guards. "She was having sex with numerous partners," one member of Congress said after viewing the pictures in a closed door session. "It appeared to be consensual."

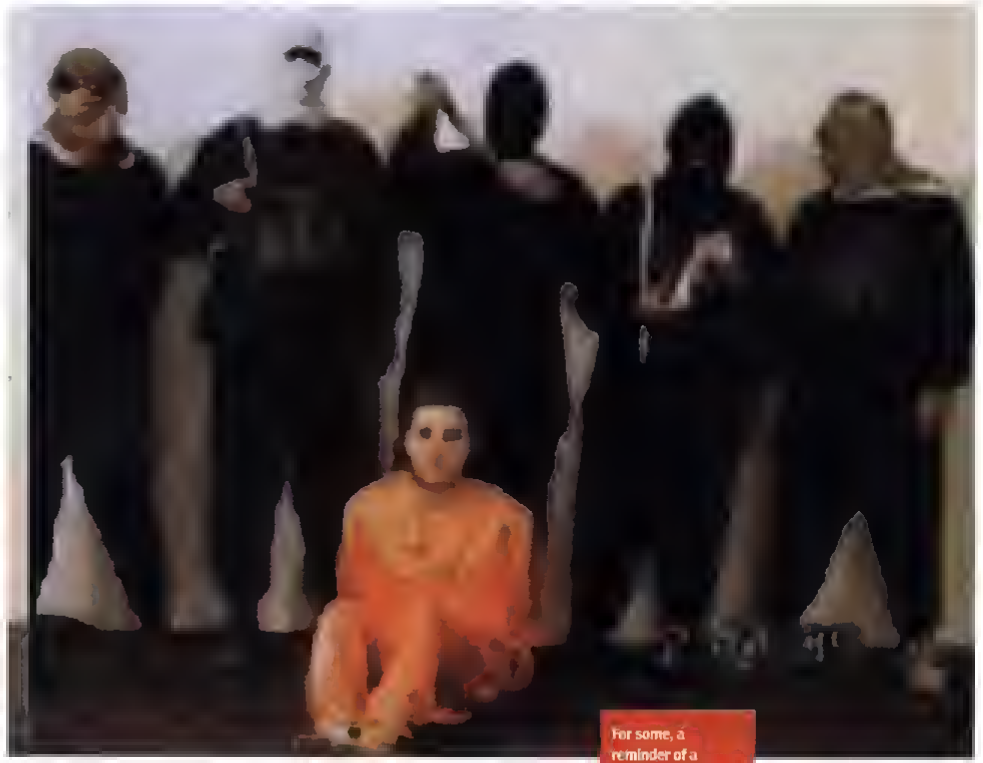
The flow of horrific evidence didn't stop there: lawmakers said some photos show inmates cowering naked before dogs, or lying on the floor with what appear to be bloody bite marks. Others show Muslim female inmates being forced to bare their breasts. "It was significantly worse than I had anticipated," said Senator Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat. "Take the worst case and multiply it over several times."

And by then, of course, the world had just such a yardstick: last week's on-camera execution of Nicholas Berg, the American contractor beheaded by Islamic militants, set off a firestorm of debate. Critics of the Bush administration cited the murder as proof of an occupation spinning out of control, while right-wing partisans saw a reminder of a terrorist scourge worth fighting. "They are not to be respected, they are not to be protected, they are not to be understood," a near-foaming Rush Limbaugh told his radio audience. "They are to be eliminated."

THE SCANDAL has been, in the words of U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, a "body blow" to the military, calling into question everything from army discipline to the insidious influence of military intelligence officers on untrained troops. But the more pressing concern is its effect on Washington's trouble-plagued efforts to build a stable, peaceful Iraq. with each new revelation, George W. Bush and company endure fresh vitriol from Iraqis and mounting calls at home to cut and run. "We now have the choice of less-than-desirable options," says Ted Galen Carpenter, a foreign policy and defence expert at the Washington-based Cato Institute. "I think the least worst is a rapid-exit strategy, measured in months not years, transferring real authority to an interim Iraqi government."

The reasons, he says, are obvious. Recent polls in Iraq suggest eight out of 10 Iraqis disapprove of the occupation, with some 57 per cent favouring an immediate withdrawal of troops. Some 30 per cent think attacks on U.S. forces are justified, suggesting resistance is changing from a guerrilla war into something resembling a popular uprising. The safest option, Carpenter argues, is a full withdrawal of the 135,000 American troops by next January, when Iraqis are supposed to elect their first government.

It's hardly an attractive strategy—possibly opening the door to another Saddam-like strongman, or a radical Islamic regime backed by Iraq's Shia majority. But it's one an increasing number of Americans appear to favour. In a poll released last week, some 54 per cent said they believe the war had not been worth the cost, while nearly half endorsed withdrawing some or all of the country's troops. The odd thing, says Michael O'Hanlon, a foreign policy analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington, is the failure of either national party to harness voter skepticism. "We have this irony where Bush and John Kerry actually agree with each other on most aspects of Iraq policy," he says. "They're advocating staying the course, yet they're increasingly isolated across the country in that conviction."



For some, a reminder of a terrorist scourge worth fighting

O'Hanlon believes many Americans are waiting for either leader to propose a new, creative plan that offers even a glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel. Last week, the U.S. responded only to their most pressing crisis, freeing nearly 300 detainees from Abu Ghraib. It was not exactly a PR coup, with prisoners accusing guards of abuse within hours of their release. But at a time when obscenity in the military trumps obscenity in the media, and when Lynndie England bumps Jessica Lynch from the spotlight, Americans will take any good news they can get.

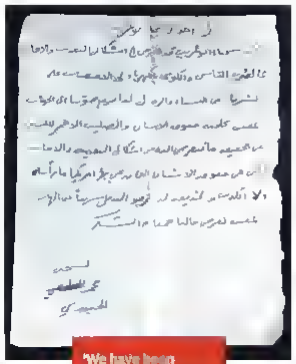
PHOTOGRAPHS BY AP

EXCLUSIVE

LETTERS FROM HELL

'The torture usually begins at 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 a.m.' ADNAN R. KHAN runts how he secretly corresponded with an inmate of Abu Ghraib prison.

"I AM A PRISONER at Abu Ghraib." With those words, Mohammed Jassim al-Jabouri and I began our short-lived correspondence. It was a haunting first sentence, in a letter smuggled out of Iraq's most notorious prison by a local worker not long after disturbing images of torture and abuse surfaced in the media. Despite the words' simplicity, they were chilling—as is the rest of this story. After three short letters, my go-between has disappeared, there has been no more correspondence from Mohammed, and his family lives in fear after American troops searched their home.



'We have been facing all kinds of torture, like electric shocks, even rape'

I first met my contact, Hassan (not his real name), outside Abu Ghraib prison. The photographs of torture and abuse had become public a day earlier, and desperate families were swarming the prison gates, wanting news of loved ones but kept at bay by razor wire, concrete barriers and U.S. Marines. Some carried newspaper clippings of the horrifying images as they demanded information from Abdul Rahman Wahham Arar al-Rawy, the prison's Iraqi liaison officer. Many had not heard of their family members in months.

Hassan was not at Abu Ghraib to visit relatives—he was an employee who gathered up litter from the prison grounds and ran errands for his American taskmasters. His family lives in abject poverty in a ragged village not far from the prison, to top up his meagre stipend, he also, on occasion, smuggled out letters from prisoners to family members who paid him a few dollars in compensation. "I've only done it a few times," he told me during our first meeting. "It's dangerous. The Americans search me, but I have a good hiding spot." He reached down and showed me, pulling back the sole of his tattered sandal.

The next morning he brought me the initial letter, scrawled on the back of foil from a cigarette package. It reminded me of my first visit to the prison, in April 2003 after Saddam Hussein's regime had fallen. Abu Ghraib was then a symbol of the horrors of Saddam's rule: thousands had died there. Looters and vengeful former inmates were tearing the place apart. On the wall of one of the cells on death row, I saw the last desperate plea from a condemned prisoner: "I am a prisoner at Abu Ghraib. May God have mercy on me."

It seemed inconceivable that the prison would ever be used again. But a year later, the guard towers are again manned, prisoners are packed into its small cells, or corralled into tent compounds on the sprawling grounds. According to one Red Cross assessment, as many as 90 per cent of the detainees are there without justification—a disturbing estimate considering the escalating evidence of abuse behind those menacing walls. "What was our sin that makes us deserve this punishment?" Mohammed asked in that first letter to me. "We appeal to human conscience to raise a voice."

That note was delivered inconspicuously on the outskirts of the prison, out of sight of the guards, behind mounds of upturned dirt. Hassan, on his way to work, slipped into my car and hurriedly pulled the letter from his pocket. My translator read it to me in English and I then dictated a response that Hassan stuffed into his sandal. It would take a couple of days for a reply to arrive, he said. "And you should give me some paper that Mohammed can write on." I gave him a sheet from my notebook. The meeting lasted all of five minutes.



WHILE I WAITED for Mohammed's response, I decided to visit Abdul, the Iraqi liaison officer at Abu Ghraib. During the course of the day he would appear intermittently, climbing up onto one of the prison's barriers. He promised visitations, admonished people for expecting too much, and, in the wake of the abuse allegations, defended U.S. actions. "These pictures are very old," he yelled at people brandishing newly published images. Those being abused were "Baathists who worked for Saddam."

Abdul refused to talk to me at the prison, but a local told me where he lived. We staked out the house for the afternoon. Abdul didn't show up but a steady stream of families did, looking to talk to their only lifeline to imprisoned loved ones. They soon left in frustration. Abdul's brother, Karim, said Abdul often stayed away if he saw a crowd gathered at the house. "He is under a lot of stress," he told me. "Look at all of these people waiting for him. Every day there is a crowd demanding something of him."

We returned the next afternoon and again waited. This time Abdul arrived. He invited

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADNAN R. KHAN (LEFT)
CHERYL D. AZ MEYER/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/CORBIS/MAGMA



Prisoners were being released, but too many remained unaccounted for

us inside his dingy home, making certain to point out his poor living conditions. "Do you think I do this job for money?" he asked, sitting down to a dinner of flatbread and scrambled eggs. "I want to help my people. That is all." He again defended the American soldiers pictured in the photographs. "We must sometimes give rights to the Americans as well," he argued. "Those are criminals in the photographs."

Abdul is 36, and a martial arts expert. During the Saddam era, he tutored the Iraqi special forces in the art of killing. Every person we spoke to in his neighbourhood and at the prison told us he was a member of Saddam's fedayeen militia, a ruthless division whose members were chosen for their deep loyalty. Abdul himself admitted he was one of the first prisoners housed by the Americans at Abu Ghraib. "I came to the prison on July 23 of last year and was released at the end of August," he said. "The Americans immediately hired me on." He claimed he had not witnessed any torture. "Besides," he argued, "I'm not sure what crimes these people committed, so I can't say whether or not they deserved that kind of treatment."

HASSAN MET US the next morning with a second letter. "They subject us to many kinds of torture and humiliation," Mohammed wrote, "like physical beatings, electric shocks, and even the rape of some honest men and women. Where are the human rights that America is claiming when we only see lies?"

It was becoming more difficult to continue the correspondence, Hassan told me. "The Americans have tightened up," he said. "Mohammed says it's very difficult to pass the letters to me. He is scared." I told Hassan we still didn't have enough to be sure the letters were authentic. We needed more details, names and, most importantly, Mohammed's home address so we could visit his family. "I have that," Hassan said, to my surprise. "They're not far from here."

As it turned out, Hassan lived in the village Mohammed was from and their families knew each other. When I went there with my translator, an old woman wrapped in a traditional shawl opened the rusted metal door to the walled compound where Mohammed's family lived. We only had to mention Hassan to gain entry, and waited while a girl ran across the dirt road to find Mohammed's brother. Tea was served, while curious children poked their heads into the room before running off giggling.

Mohammed's brother arrived a few minutes later, closely followed by his mother. We explained the reason for our visit, I passed the two letters to Mohammed's brother. "That's him," he said when he saw the handwriting. "But that's not his real name. He's probably too afraid to use it." Mohammed's mother asked her son to read one of the letters. He only made it through the first two sentences before she broke down in tears.

Mohammed's brother explained that he had been arrested five months ago during a raid on the car repair shop where he worked. The family hadn't seen or heard from him since. "I know the shop had a couple of AK 47s," he said, "but every business has weapons. These are dangerous times." The family had implored Abdul to arrange a visit, but to no avail. "Abdul doesn't do anything for poor people like us," Mohammed's mother said. "He is a fedayeen. He will only help you if you pay him."

Since the publication of the prison abuse photographs, she said, she had barely slept. "He is my favourite son," she said through a stream of tears. "Every morning before going to work he would kiss my hand. You can't imagine the pain a mother goes through." I tried to point out that Mohammed hadn't specifically said he'd been tortured. "In the second letter he mentions that 'we are facing torture,'" I pointed out, trying to console her. "We know from people who have been released that the situation inside is much worse than the pictures show," Mohammed's brother said. His mother added, "We were less fearful of Abu Ghraib during Saddam's time. Now we feel a horror because of the mystery, because we cannot visit our loved ones."

The incommunicado detentions have taken their toll on the families of other detainees. At the prison gates, relatives still flash visitation chits bearing dates that have long passed, and with no visit granted. People complain they are told every week that they will be allowed in—always next week. Frustration is mounting, and with it pressure on U.S. authorities to take action. The released photographs have added to the sense of urgency, forcing the American jailers into damage-control mode. A visitation centre was set up last week, while prisoners are now being released. But many still remain inside, cut off from the outside world.

TWO DAYS LATER Hassan brought us a third letter from Mohammed. It began by thanking me for my efforts, and then gave more details about life in Abu Ghraib. "There is little food," Mohammed wrote. "I am feeling weak and haven't eaten since morning. The torture usually begins at 12 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 a.m. We beg the human rights committee to speed up our release from this terrible prison." I wrote back asking for more details. What was their daily routine? Had things changed since the publication of the photographs? What were their living conditions like? Hassan said he would have a reply in another two days.

But this time, Hassan didn't appear. We waited for two hours, hoping he'd simply been delayed. We paid another visit to Mohammed's family, they asked us to stay away because American troops had raided their house the day before, searching it thoroughly before leaving without explanation. "We are afraid they know Mohammed has been sending out letters," his brother told me.

Had Mohammed and Hassan been found out? The following day we returned to the prison, well before the employees were scheduled to arrive. I waited in the car at the spot where we had normally met Hassan, while my translator went to the gate to see if he would come from a different direction. Nothing. Now, even as I worry about Mohammed and Hassan, I can't help but wonder what Mohammed may have written in that last letter, the one I will likely never receive. The mystery of Abu Ghraib has infected me, and it feels like a virus.

IN CAIRO, THE U.S. REPUTATION IS ALL BAD

MUSTAFA BAKRI, the editor of a weekly newspaper in Cairo, faced a big problem with the front page of his stridently anti-American broadsheet last week: the dailies had already exhausted the rich Arabic-language reservoir of epithets in their coverage of the U.S. abuse of Iraqi prisoners. Comparisons with Nazi torturers, calls for Judgment Day, and such words as atrocious and inhuman abounded in the usually guarded, government-controlled Egyptian press. So Bakri splashed a huge red banner across the page, asking "Where are the men who will avenge this outrage?" "You have to understand the psychology of the Muslim man," he explained. "He is part of a whole. If a woman was raped, she becomes his mother or his sister."

The huge crashing noise heard over the din of Cairo traffic was the sound of any remaining U.S. credibility in the Arab world falling to pieces. The *al-Ahram* newspaper wrote that Iraq was no longer about freedom but "death, destruction, rape and torture." The No. 1 problem in Egypt, said one foreign diplomat, "is the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the next-door neighbours. Iraq was another matter. Now, both have fused into a single issue." Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, usually a strong American ally, levelled criticism at the U.S., and the prison abuse blew wind into the sails of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, the loudest opposition group. "If it is U.S.-style democracy we are seeing in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, they can keep it," said Mahdi Akef, the group's spiritual leader. "This time, the sentiment on the street and the official reaction are in harmony. Iraq was not an international initiative to destroy weapons of mass destruction and reinstall democracy. It was a unilateral and illegal invasion, aimed at taking control of oil fields, and at securing the Zionists in Israel. Now everyone knows it." BENOIT AUBIN IN CAIRO



MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/AP

COLLATERAL IMAGE

With the Iraq prison abuse scandal, two disparate theatres—war and showbiz—have been thrown into grotesque juxtaposition, writes BRIAN D. JOHNSON

SO FAR THIS YEAR, the biggest controversies in American pop culture have raged around two events of the flesh: an epic depiction of torture in *The Passion of the Christ* and a fleeting exposure of Janet Jackson's breast at the Super Bowl. Both gave rise to fierce debates about what's pornographic, and permissible,



"What makes this abuse unprecedented is how freely it was documented"

in the name of art. In American political culture, meanwhile, as the body count climbed in Iraq, a president staked his future on what's permissible, and forgivable, in the name of freedom. You'd like to think that these two theatres—show business and war—would be unrelated. But with the Iraq prison abuse scandal, they've been thrown into grotesque juxtaposition.

In a Barcelona hotel room, en route to the Cannes festival, I found myself riveted to Donald Rumsfeld's Senate performance on CNN. Talk about method acting. With astonishing candour, the U.S. defense secretary talked about how he'd read reports of Americans torturing and humiliating their prisoners, but actually seeing the photos elevated his alarm to a code red of concern. The pictures, he said, were "radioactive."

Here was the man in charge of the world's largest military machine, a force responsible for untold civilian deaths in the past year, freely admitting that the "appearance" of an atrocity was of graver consequence than the atrocity itself—that insult mattered more than injury. In political terms, of course, Rumsfeld was right. Slaughtered civilians—in Iraq, Sudan or Tibet—register as ciphers in the eye of the media. They're not a story, just an unfortunate by-product of war. What Rumsfeld spelled out with jarring clarity is that the collateral image has a more devastating impact than what's euphemistically called collateral damage. His choice of metaphor is telling—with the words "radioactive" and "firestorm," he expressed his frustration with the power of uncontainable optics. The military war is conventional, the optics war is nuclear. And the hidden weapon of mass destruction that triggered this firestorm was the simple point-and-shoot camera.

Whether the atrocities were renegade acts or part of an orchestrated policy, the urge to photograph them seems a grotesque caricature of colonial tourism. Which is not to say that worse things haven't happened in the dungeons of various dictatorships. What makes this abuse unprecedented is how freely—how democratically—it was documented, as a sadistic twist on home entertainment by Americans abroad.

From Richard Nixon to Paris Hilton, people show a strange compulsion to record their own scandalous behaviour. Digital photography and video have created a world of self-surveillance. And like the Internet, this web of voyeurism is uncontrollable. After all the care the Pentagon took to manage Iraq coverage through embedded journalists, its own ranks have vaporized the mirage. Bush has tried hard to portray his war as clean and righteous, a surgical assault on terrorist cancer. But war is always dirty. And now it appears positively pornographic, mixing sex and torture in images that can only cause the cancer to metastasize, with the videotaped beheading of a U.S. contractor, the enemy has actually upped the ante. Some suggest the Iraqi prison of Abu Ghraib, relic of Saddam Hussein's regime, be demolished, just as Saddam's statue was toppled—as if images of atrocity could be ritually erased by a spectacle of annihilation.

The pornography of war and the war on pornography at home can be seen as two sides of the same moral currency, stamped with the same fig leaf of puritanism. In America, a righteous love of freedom is tempered by a puritanical suspicion of sex. You can take the kids to see *The Passion*'s stomach-churning scenes of torture, but a glimpse of Janet Jackson's breast might scar them for life. While the movies portray vigilante violence as the highest form of heroism, sexual transgression lurks as America's dark menace. It was the stain that brought down Bill Clinton. Now it's the bogeyman that stalks the White House of George W. Bush, who's seeing the naked terror of his war, as snapshots from hell, coming back to haunt him. M

THE WASHINGTON POST/AP

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WORK IN PROGRESS

Stephen Harper is changing his image. But he's also set himself another task—overhauling the entire right side of the political spectrum, says JOHN GEDDES.

ROCH CARRIER'S classic hockey sweater story may have the sentimental edge, but Stephen Harper's new version is more politically illuminating. It's the tale of a politician whose staff, always on the lookout for a chance to loosen up their boss's somewhat stiff image, try to get him to wear the Calgary Flames colours into the House of Commons—under his suit jacket, of course. The Flames happen to be the Conservative leader's hometown team, as well as the sole Canadian franchise left in the hunt for the Stanley Cup. Grabbing a piece of Canada's team is too much for any good political handler to pass up. But Harper, not known for his populist instincts, isn't sure. So he calls his savviest old MP, John Reynolds, for advice. "I told him it's not very dignified to wear it into the House," Reynolds says. "Wait until they've won a couple of games, and then wear the sweater to caucus."

That's just what he did last week, scoring precisely the desired TV clips and news photos. Now for the post-game commentary. Here are two ways to look at this latest bit of Harper playmaking: further evidence that the former policy purist has surrendered entirely to corny, calculated politics, or another example of his growth from icy ideologue to electable leader. Liberals are worried enough about the latter impression spreading that they are making plans to launch the imminent federal election campaign with a barrage of negative advertising, using Harper's own past comments to portray him as a right-wing extremist.

Naturally, the real Harper is neither the folksy guy in the Flames sweater nor the menacing character in a Liberal attack ad. But getting at the essence of this increasingly guarded politician is not easy. At 44, he's a work in progress, far more adaptable than his critics used to claim. Once regarded as too aloof to be much of a politician, he's learning to project a marketable family guy image. Long pigeon-holed as a policy wonk, Harper also showed he's a slick deal-maker with his adroit brokering of last year's Alliance-Tory merger. But a transformed public persona is not such a big deal compared to the real goal Harper has set: overhauling the entire right side of the Canadian political spectrum. "My goal is not only to win an election," he says. "It's to create a natural Conservative majority in this country."

So he's not just out to beat Paul Martin, but to put an end to the Liberals' status as the default position of federal politics: the party that rules unless something weird happens. For more than a century, the Conservatives' glory days have amounted to mere breaks between Liberal regimes. John Diefenbaker was a wild-eyed outsider whose charisma never fortified the Tories for the long haul. Brian Mulroney's alliance of Quebec nationalists and alienated Westerners looked more promising, but it fell apart with the rise of Reform and the Bloc Québécois. Despite that dispiriting history, Harper contends that enough right-of-centre raw material exists—out there in the electorate—to cultivate something more lasting. "The task I've set out is what no leader since John A. Macdonald has done," he declares. "Conservatives have won elections, but they haven't created a permanent governing coalition."

HE'S NOT just out to beat Martin, but to put an end to the Liberals' status as the default party of Canadian politics

Until recently, few would have taken Harper seriously as a potential architect of such sweeping political change. He has never been the sort of spellbinder who inspires grand dreams. In fact, he has sometimes seemed to epitomize the frustrating fate of marginalized Canadian right wingers. Harper appeared on the political stage in 1987 as a promising young policy thinker in Preston Manning's new Reform Party. Yet they never quite saw eye to eye. Manning was a populist who often downplayed Reform's core conservatism, talking up the need to reach out to disgruntled Liberals and New Democrats, and he was closely identified with Reform's rural Prairie roots. Harper argued for courting urban, middle-class voters working in the private sector, to create a Canadian version of the more broadly based movements of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher.

Yet Harper's vision is no neo-conservative import. It emerged out of a uniquely Canadian journey. Born in Toronto in 1959, he grew up in its suburbs, where as a teenager he admired Pierre Trudeau. After high school, he moved to Alberta to work in the oil fields, and then studied economics at the University of Calgary. His anger at witnessing first-hand the damage Trudeau's National Energy Program did to Alberta in the early 1980s was a turning point for him. By chance, he ran into Trudeau on a Montreal



PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY FOURNIE

street two decades later, and wrote revealingly about coming "face to face with a living legend, someone who had provoked both the loves and hatreds of my political passion, all in the form of a tired-out, little old man." This from Harper, the cold fish.

After a stint as Manning's policy chief, Harper won a Calgary seat in 1993. He was one of the highest profile Reformers, but not a member of Manning's inner circle. When he quit to lead the right wing National Citizens Coalition in 1997, his political future was in doubt. He had married Laureen Teskey, a graphic designer, in 1993, and they went on to have two children. Family, he said, now came first. On paper, he remained an intriguing political package: M.A. in economics, fluent in French, sure of his convictions. But something else was on paper: a mounting record of provocative writings, speeches and reported remarks.

Harper often sounded too blunt for mass consumption. He once said the "biggest public policy problem of the coming generation [is] our government-controlled health-care monopoly." Not exactly a measured critique of the system he must know most Canadian voters cherish. When Roy Romanow proposed expanding publicly funded care, Harper slammed him in no uncertain terms. "He fails to recognize that the system is at the breaking point," Harper said, "and the talk of expansion raises the spectre of huge tax increases to pay for it."

He doesn't talk about medicare in such dire terms anymore. Today, Harper is the one

REPOSITIONING BRAND HARPER

Stephen Harper is arguably the most mysterious of the candidates vying to become Canada's next PM. Whereas Jack Layton has established himself as the media-crazed everyman, and Paul Martin as the "new and improved" status quo, Harper—with his watchful gaze and understated manner—is still an unknown quantity. *Maclean's* Associate Editor **Lianne George** asked political experts, media professionals and image consultants to weigh in about his profile and prospects. Here are six ways of looking at Harper:

AS THE PASSIVE LIBERAL DESTROYER

Harper is a steady communicator and not prone to major image gaffes. I think the Liberals have made a strategic mistake by trying to paint him as an extremist. The fact that he's less spicy than, say, Jack Layton, is good. With the Liberals getting such negative coverage right now, why would he want to detract from it? As Sun Tzu tells us, when an enemy is destroying himself, don't interfere.
Ezra Levant, founding publisher, the Western Standard, Calgary

AS A YOUNG MAN IN OLD MAN'S CLOTHING

I think he's pristine. He's got a nice, clean-cut attitude—although I think a younger electorate would look at him more favourably if he were a little more modern in his dress. I would develop his casual side, frankly. He's typical of most young men his age who haven't got a clue how to look good except in a suit.
Harry Rosen, founder of clothier Harry Rosen Inc., Toronto

AS A WELL-POSITIONED BRAND

I think his brand is about perfect in light of everything that's gone on with the Liberals. Martin's sort of like a Cadillac and Harper's the Honda Accord. As much as Harper's really boring, he's a seemingly honest guy and people are desperate for someone to give them the straight goods. All he has to do is get people to notice him. But I wouldn't put him on camera. He's a little flat.
Geoffrey Roche, creative director of Lowe Roche Advertising, Toronto



JONATHAN HAYWARD/CP

A [illegible] is one thing, but hockey hair would have been too much

AS A MAKE-OVER SUCCESS STORY

I've noticed a huge change in Harper between 2002 and today. Back then, he was clearly ill at ease in the limelight. You could tell by his facial gestures: a lot of looking down, not speaking clearly, not making eye contact. I'd say he's made progress by leaps and bounds.
Merge Gupta-Sunderji, leadership and communication expert, Toronto

AS THE STRONG, A-LITTLE-TOO-SILENT TYPE

He's very low-key and sort of non-excitable—the opposite of Preston Manning in that sense. The question is, will he be able to produce news and excitement every day during the campaign?
Patrick Gossage, former press secretary for Pierre Trudeau and now president of Media Profile, Toronto

AS A DARK SUIT AND A BAD HAIRCUT

He looks like a dark suit with a very pale face plopped on top of it. If he invested in light grey-blues and earth tones, he'd have better success. Also, his hair reminds me of Bill Gates with that kind of helmet-head. It seems like he pulls it over his skull in the morning. He needs a style with some softness to it.
Joanne Blake, founder of Style for Success Inc. business image consulting, Edmonton

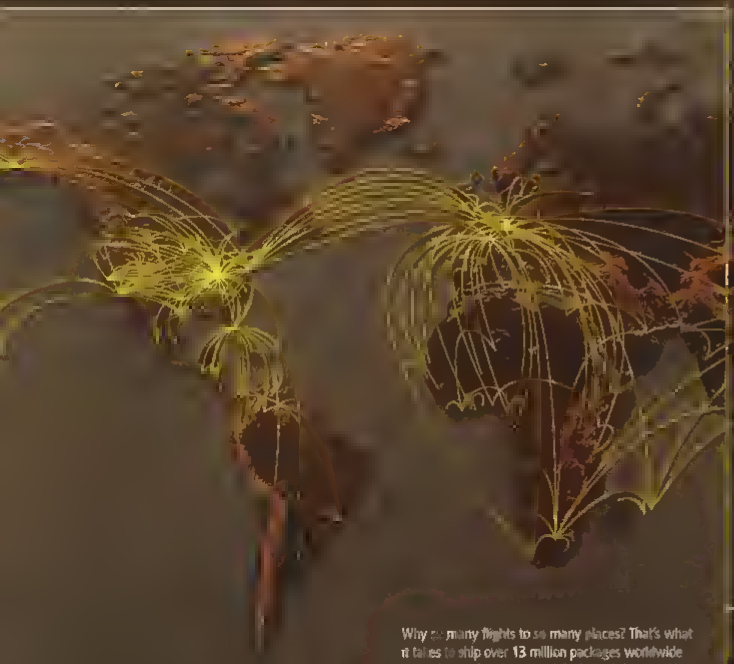
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proposing expanding the system: not only is he calling for public coverage of "catastrophic" drug costs, he even suggests that Ottawa run the new program. That's a stunning departure from his long track record of arguing for containing costs, and leaving it to the provinces to take the lead in setting policy and delivering services. The change hasn't gone unnoticed in Alberta. "I was surprised to see him advocating this sort of aggressive expansion coupled with a federal role," says Roger Gibbins, president of the Canada West Foundation, an influential Calgary-based think tank that promotes a Western policy perspective.

Those closer to Harper are less taken aback. They say his priority is stopping the Liberals from stoking voter fears that if Conservatives win power, universal care will be history. Reynolds says Harper's masterstroke on the file came last year, when as Alliance leader he smothered his party's reflex to criticize, and threw its support behind a five-year health accord struck between Jean Chrétien and the premiers. Harper's idea was to line up so squarely with the Liberals that they would have trouble setting themselves apart on health. "He told us, 'We're going to support it, and we will kill this as an issue,'" Reynolds recalls. "It's working. I've served under a lot of leaders, and he's the best strategist I've ever met."

Conservative insiders point to another decisive Harper move as proof of his determination to deny the Liberals easy targets. Last fall, he quickly fired Larry Spencer as Alliance family values critic, and the Saskatchewan MP was also forced to quit caucus, after he said in an interview that homosexuality should be outlawed. Spencer's remarks were a reminder of the social conservative baggage often blamed for stopping Reform and the Alliance from breaking through in moderate Ontario. "Can you imagine if the Spencer thing had happened in the reign of Preston Manning or Stockwell Day?" Stephen Harper killed it right away," says Reynolds. Whether the Liberals agree the underlying issue is dead, though, is another matter. Martin advisers say they won't raise religion in the campaign, but they view the so-con views that often go with evangelical Christianity as fair game.

If Harper can keep religion out of the campaign, and avoid being tripped up on big issues like health, is his dream of a governing Conservative coalition within sight? John Wright, senior vice-president of the polling firm Ipsos-Reid, says a Harper move into 24 Sussex Drive after the widely expected June 28 vote is all but "mathematically impossible." The firm's latest poll, conducted in early May, put the Liberals at 40 per cent, which would translate into a solid majority of about 175 seats out of 308. The Conservatives, at 24 per cent, could get around 60 seats—far below the combined 78 Alliance and Progressive Conservative MPs elected in 2000. (The poll projects about 55 seats for the Bloc and 20 for the NDP.)

Dig deeper into the data, though, and Wright finds a more complex long-term picture. He says polls tend to show only about one-fifth of Canadians are solidly conservative, although nearly half don't rule out voting Conservative. The largest potential pool of new support is younger Ontario voters. Harper's biggest problem: few Quebecers seem inclined to vote his way. He admits Quebec is the toughest long-term challenge in building his new coalition. This time out, barring a shocking turnaround, the Quebec dead zone is what leaves him facing very long odds against forming a government. Knocking the Liberals down to a minority might be within reach, but only if his popularity picks up dramatically in Ontario. Wright says an effective late-campaign signal to voters shaken by the sponsorship scandal might be: "Vote for us and we'll hold Liberal feet to the fire—a minority ain't so bad."

HARPER'S vision is no neo-conservative import—it emerged out of a uniquely Canadian political journey

Harper insists he's playing for all the marbles. He talks of planning for the transition from opposition to government. And he says the Liberals' reported plan to quickly trot out his more controversial quotes shows Martin is scared. "This is what you do when you're behind," Harper says. "They are conceding we are a threat in a way they haven't had to concede to an opposition party in a long time." The polls suggest that's partly partisan bluster mixed with wishful thinking. But Harper has defied expectations before. And the Flames weren't given much chance of making it so far in the playoffs either.

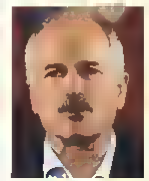
THE TO-DO LISTS

Three new leaders, and one with a new lease on political life: it's making for an election buzz utterly unlike Jean Chrétien's three strolls to victory. A capsule look at what's changed for the main parties:

LIBERALS: Chrétien's majorities were never seriously in doubt, and his agenda was for the most part modestly managerial. The latest poll numbers put Paul Martin back into majority territory, but his "historic" and "transformative" change rhetoric sets the stakes higher. Expectations were enormous when he took over last year. Now, he must run a superb campaign to restore that sense of excitement.

CONSERVATIVES. Stephen Harper still has a chance of winning a respectable number of Ontario seats—the big score that eluded Preston Manning and Stockwell Day. The downside: failing to top the 78 seats won by the Alliance and Tory parties in 2000 would make last year's merger look pointless—and polls suggest he might indeed fall short. So he too needs to pick up support on the trail.

NEW DEMOCRATS: Jack Layton has already outstripped Alexa McDonough and Audrey McLaughlin. Yet the Martin-vs.-Harper dynamic dominates. To turn that into a three-way affair, Layton needs to show early promise of knocking off Liberals, especially in Toronto and Vancouver. Polls suggest a near doubling of the NDP's 2000 total of 13 seats. But is even that enough?



BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS. Gilles Duceppe is an unlikely survivor. He might well be the main beneficiary of sponsorship scandal fallout—on track to build substantially on the Bloc's 38 seats in 2000. If his party can thrive even with such a lacklustre leader, and with enthusiasm for separatism lukewarm at best these days, then maybe it really is a permanent political force. J.G.



ANDREW VAUGHAN/CP (TOP); CLEMENT ALLARD/CP



THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

Poverty, terrorism, disease. Urgent problems abound. But these 25 university stars are on the case.

BY ANN DOWSETT JOHNSTON

PLACE A CALL to Obi Griffith's cellphone, and the message is more than direct. "Hey, this is Obi. Please leave a message. If you don't have anything to say, hang up now. Thanks." No doubt about it, Griffith is a guy in a hurry—a hurry to cure cancer, that is. "Or at least play a part in it," says the 26 year old whiz kid, calling during a break at the annual Biology of Genomes conference on Long Island, N.Y., last week. "Making even a tiny contribution would really please me."

And if past performance is a decent predictor of what's to come, there's every reason to believe that Griffith could fulfill his dream. Last spring, he played a key role on a national scientific team that made headlines by cracking the genetic code for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Now, just months into his doctoral work in medical genetics at the University of British Columbia, he's already working on a scientific manuscript, the kernel of which he presented at the conference last week. His supervisor, Steven Jones, head of bioinformatics at the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre in Vancouver, says of Griffith: "Obi's out of the gate pretty fast—a very focused individual who's almost impatient to get on with his research."

And who would expect less from a young man whose namesake is Obi-Wan Kenobi, the legendary Jedi knight? Focused. Curious. Brilliant. These are just some of the characteristics that define Griffith and the 24 other remarkable Canadians selected for this *Maclean's* special report, "The Best and the Brightest." For the first time ever, we asked universities across the country to nominate their young stars—current students and recent grads, all under the age of 30. From more than 400 names, these individuals were chosen. All are using their considerable talent, brainpower and, yes, compassion, to make this world a better place: fighting disease, poverty, legal inequities and much more. All are dreaming large. At a time when so much news is deeply disheartening, these young Canadians are a welcome reminder that there is still reason for optimism on this weary planet, and promise yet to come.

DOMINIC ALLAIN,

Have the nagging suspicion you're not doing enough with your life? Dominic Allain will likely add to your doubts. The Dieppe, N.B. native is a first-year medical resident, specializing in pediatrics, at the Stollery Children's Hospital, part of the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. While pursuing an undergrad degree at the University of Ottawa and attending medical school at Dalhousie University, Allain found time to, among other things, work in a clinic on a Mi'kmaq reserve, help found a students' society aimed at promoting health outreach projects in Third World countries, and travel to Gambia, Guatemala and Cuba to attend to the underprivileged and afflicted, including HIV/AIDS patients. Oh yes, and in his spare time this



avid soccer player, snowboarder and rollerblader manages to coach kids' soccer.

Allain credits his parents, both sociology professors at Université de Moncton, with instilling in him a commitment to social justice. "Helping underprivileged people is something I've always been interested in," he says. "Medicine gives me the chance to do that." Allain chose his current residency program because it encourages students to take electives abroad and draws a large number of Aboriginal patients from northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Long range, Allain plans to practise pediatrics in Canada while spending part of each year in the Far North and overseas. "There will always be a huge need to help sick children around the world," he says. "That's what drives me."

MATHIEU HOUDE, 27, CELL BIOLOGIST

Mathieu Houde is patiently dumbing it down for a scientifically challenged visitor. The bright green blobs on his computer screen are macrophages, the human immune system's first line of defence. The red "hot spots" are the discovery that has the potential to revolutionize how we combat everything from herpes to cancer.

Houde, a Ph.D. student in pathology and cell biology at the Université de Montréal, is the principal author of a groundbreaking study published last fall in the journal *Nature*. Working with their professor, Michel Desjardins, Houde and his colleagues unravelled the secret of how our bodies fight infections, parasites and mutations. Scientists knew that macrophages, which "eat" bacteria and other pathogens, also stimulate the production of T lymphocyte cells, which attack and kill the invader. But by mapping the digestive process, Desjardins' team was able to establish just how that cellular machinery works. As pathogens are broken down, fractions of proteins—peptides—make their way to the surface of the macrophage. The immune system recognizes the specific peptide sequence and dispatches the appropriate type of T cell to repel the hordes.

This process is up to 10,000 times more efficient than what was understood in the past. Having identified the triggers, scientists can now look for ways to turn on the immune system at will. Houde and his team are investigating the use of microscopic latex beads coated with peptides to stimulate the lymphocytes.

It's a huge way to begin a career, and Houde, who heads to the Karolinska Institute in Sweden this winter to start post-doctorate research, is determined to build on his success. Not bad for a guy who didn't have the marks for med school. "Doctors just put treatments into effect," he says with a grin. "Research is what medicine is built on."

ERIN JESSEE, 24, FORENSIC RESEARCHER

Upbeat and outdoorsy, Kelowna-born Erin Jessee hadn't planned on a career investigating mass graves. She'd enrolled at the University of Victoria to study anthropology and Eastern philosophy. But when a few courses in archaeology captured her interest, she switched to Simon Fraser University. There, in the work of renowned forensic anthropologist Mark Skinner—who has exhumed evidence of mass murder in wartorn regions around the world—she found a fit with her interest in human rights and humanitarian law. Jessee sped through a master's degree, completing a thesis last fall on plans for an experimental mass grave using pig carcasses to measure the amount of forensic information that can be retrieved using various exhumation techniques.

Jessee plans to pursue a doctorate, and hopes to work overseas to create international standards for grave investigations. "When dealing with genocide, crimes against humanity, it's extremely important we do a good job," she says. "We may only get one chance in court." Closer to home, she was part of the team combing for evidence at the Port Coquitlam farm of Robert Pickton, who faces 22 murder charges. The more difficult such work is, she says, the greatest is the need to put aside feelings in the hunt for justice. "You have to step back and let the evidence do the work for you, without colouring it with your own emotions."

JANAY MACNAUGHTON, 24, PHYSICIST

Janay MacNaughton feels she is in the right place at precisely the right time. The young physicist is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan, doing groundbreaking research using a synchrotron—a giant particle accelerator that turns electrons into light, allowing scientists to peer into the atomic structure of samples narrower than a human hair. Currently doing her research in Berkeley, Calif., MacNaughton will soon take advantage of the $174-million Canadian Light Source set to open at the University of Saskatchewan this fall. The chance to work at Canada's first synchrotron is what brought the University of Lethbridge graduate to Saskatoon. "People will come here from all over the world to find out unique information," says MacNaughton. "To be part of that is very exciting."

MacNaughton's research is attempting to understand the conductivity in DNA, to help determine if it could be used in the production of nanochips. If possible, it would have huge implications in the field of nanotechnology, helping to develop faster, more productive circuit boards, computers and other electronic equipment. "Every scientist would like to find something new," she says. "I feel I have the chance to do that."



MERCEDES STEPHENSON, 23, MILITARY ANALYST

To her frequent chagrin, Mercedes Stephenson looks even younger than her years. "I'm constantly being asked for ID," she says as she picks away at a Greek salad. But a glance at her resumé and a lunchtime conversation quickly reveal that Stephenson is a very old soul indeed. A master's student at the University of Calgary's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, Stephenson is doing her thesis on nuclear proliferation and missile defence systems. Among other things, she has studied economics and media ethics at Washington's Georgetown University, worked as a broadcast journalist for Soldiers' Radio and Television at the Pentagon, and is currently on a four-month stint at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies. She has also served as an analyst for CBC, CTV and Global News on breaking stories, including the killing of the Hussein brothers and the later capture of their notorious father.

Stephenson was always precocious. She started watching TV news at age 5 and recalls being obsessed by the first Gulf War, when she was all of 9. Her instincts were initially anti-military, a viewpoint that changed after visiting NORAD headquarters in Colorado in 2000, where she learned more about the threats posed by terrorists and rogue states. The events of 9/11 reinforced her conviction that a nation's primary duty is to ensure the safety of its citizens.

Stephenson believes Canadians are far too complacent about military and strategic affairs. While she doesn't know where her studies will ultimately take her—to academia, journalism or a role with an NGO—she's certain of one thing. "I want to make a difference," she says. "I want to make Canada more secure. How do I go about doing that? We'll find out."

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHAL STILES

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LYTON



MICHELLE DAGNINO, 23, YOUTH ACTIVIST

It's a typical high school experience. "I felt my girlfriends were slipping away," says Michelle Dagnino—slipping that is, into a world that revolved around boyfriends and beauty secrets. Rather than "fall into that trap," the Victoria native took action. She started Aspire, a mentorship program whose roster of guest speakers included, among other prominent women, the late author Carol Shields. With Aspire, Dagnino also launched a career in making the world a better place.

That was seven years ago. When she was in Grade 10. Today, the first year student at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School laughs easily at herself during an interview near the Toronto office of Youth Action Network, a national social justice organization where she works part time. The group helps young people organize conferences, produce videos and write articles, among other things. Reflecting on her so-called early days is "always funny," she says. "because I'm 23, right?" But get Dagnino talking about the things she's done—kick starting an annual anti-racism conference for youth, or speaking to governments around the world as the first envoy on child labour for the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions—and the passion of her views can't be missed.

Law school has further broadened Dagnino's focus. She's using an Ontario Genomics Institute fellowship to research gene patents and the regulation of biotechnology. But ultimately, she sees her degree as a way to maximize her impact as an activist. "I want to stand outside of government—to be a thorn in its side."

For now, Dagnino is concentrating on teenaged girls. "I am troubled," she says, "when I hear them say the glass ceiling is broken. If you look at pop culture," she adds, "women are always accessories." She hopes a series of workshops she's orchestrating around the messages that hip-hop sends to girls—for which she was recently named a YWCA Young Woman of Distinction—will inspire "young people to think." Meanwhile, Dagnino recently learned that Aspire continues to run. "So many times you start a project and it's your baby," she says. 'To think it's still going on—that's the coolest thing ever."

PHOTOGRAPH BY REGINA GARCIA

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JEFF BIERNASKIE, 28, NEUROSCIENTIST

Using five dozen rats and more M&M's than he can remember, Jeff Biernaskie has made a mark in stroke research in recent years. Biernaskie, who graduated with a Ph.D. from Memorial University's faculty of medicine last year, focused his research on the functional recovery of rats following a stroke. His testing included a specially designed feeding box that prevented the rats from using their good paw to reach for the candy. "They wanted the chocolate so desperately they forced themselves to use their bad paw," says Biernaskie, 28, whose work was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* and earned him a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Brain Star Award in 2002. "Tests showed rats that underwent rehab recovered 40 per cent better than those that didn't receive any therapy. The rehab also resulted in positive structural changes in the brain."

In related work, Biernaskie focused on the proper timing of rehabilitation. "We wanted to find an optimum period to start therapy," says the young scientist, whose work comparing rats that underwent therapy after five, 14 and 30 days following a stroke was also published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* last February. "Some research has indicated it's dangerous to start as early as we did, but we found starting after five days was best."

Biernaskie—who did his undergrad degree at the University of Lethbridge, in his hometown—hopes his findings spark a similar study in humans. Ultimately, he wants to create a more standard guideline for rehab. "It's hard to improve that much after a major stroke," says Biernaskie, who has switched focus to stem cell research and works in a third-floor lab at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "That's why I'm doing work with stem cell transplants. We really need a combination therapy to improve the quality of life for patients. That's when we'll begin to see some real change in recovery."

RAJI MANGAT, 29, LAWYER

The events that inspired Raji Mangat to become a lawyer took place more than five decades ago: the 1947 partition of the Asian subcontinent into Hindu-dominated India and Muslim Pakistan, which caused massive rioting and refugee flows. The worst violence was over the division of Punjab—forcing Mangat's mother's family to relocate from a village on the Pakistan side of the new border to India. But after her parents immigrated to Grand Prairie, Alta., in the early 1970s, all that was rarely mentioned. Mangat says she grew up "quiet and geeky, learning to speak Punjabi and Hindi, but knowing little about the traumatic history her parents had lived through."

That was left for her to explore as a university student studying for her master's at Carleton, she researched the plight of women during the partition. Says Mangat: "I discovered that both India and Pakistan enacted legislation to govern the trading back and forth of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim women, regardless of whether they wished to be returned to their families. Only when I began to probe this did I realize the transformative potential of law."

That led her to law at the University of Victoria. A star graduate, she has worked for Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci as a clerk for the past year—a big honour for a newly minted lawyer. Says Mangat: "It has really opened my mind to different areas of law." Whatever her future, Mangat carries a notion of justice rooted in an appreciation for the lessons of the past.

JENNIFER ADAMS, 29, GEOLOGIST

The daughter of a biomedical engineer and granddaughter of a prominent geologist, Jennifer Adams comes by her love of science honestly. She is also an avid hiker, skier and canoeist. After high school, Adams aimed to combine these passions. "I knew geologists got to go into the field," she says. "I thought it would be fun."

It didn't quite work as planned. By the time the Ottawa-raised Adams finished her undergrad degree, funding for field research had largely dried up. Not that she's complaining. Adams is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in geology at the University of Calgary, backed by one of the prestigious new NSERC Canadian Graduate Scholarships, worth $70,000 over two years, and a five-year grant from the Alberta Ingenuity Fund. Her research promises to shed new light on how microbes progressively degrade oil deposits, making them denser and difficult to extract.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 42

KRISTINN FREDERICKSON,

Kristinn Frederickson shrugs and laughs when asked how he feels about being a role model. "I never get used to it," says the young Metis from Stonewall, Man., who is currently a master's student in biosystems engineering at the University of Manitoba. In addition to his thesis project—an ambitious effort to improve water quality in several remote Aboriginal communities—Frederickson frequently visits high schools, career fairs and reserves to talk to Native youth about the importance of higher education. "I'm not there to impress other people," he says. "I'm trying to be successful for myself—and if others can be inspired by that, then that's excellent."

As a top flight student at Stonewall Collegiate, Frederickson was always attracted to the sciences, a field in which Aboriginals remain sorely under-represented. But he found first year engineering too dry and impersonal and his grades plummeted. Frederickson rebounded by choosing to specialize in biosystems engineering, which allowed him to apply scientific principles to a variety of real-life problems. As an undergraduate, he surveyed wastewater treatment facilities on 62 Manitoba reserves, finding 75 per cent of them substandard. Now, he's focused on bringing technological solutions to those communities.

Frederickson's work has taken him to far-flung reserves, which is exactly where he wants to be. "I'm not a pure scientist by any stretch of the imagination," he says. "I'm about seeing results." While he plans to pursue a Ph.D. and seek an academic posting, Frederickson expects to always spend a lot of time in the field. "My passion is for improving community life," he says. "You don't do that by sitting in an ivory tower."



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS FRICKE



JULIELYNN WONG, 29, MEDICAL RESEARCHER

Malaria stalks 40 per cent of the world's population—2.5 billion people—and kills about 3,000 victims a day. In fact, there are more acute cases of malaria each year than tuberculosis, AIDS, measles and leprosy combined. "It's a preventable and treatable disease," says Julielynn Wong, a third-year medical student at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. "But despite control efforts, there has been a resurgence in recent years." In 2002, Wong—who has garnered more than 10 academic awards, totalling almost $55,000—attended the International Space University in Pomona, Calif. Wong was the lone medical student in a group of 53 peers from 20 countries who collaborated on a project called HI-STAR—which stands for Health Improvements through Space Technologies and Resources. Their idea: malaria could be squelched by using telecommunication satellites to relay data on the disease, global positioning systems to correlate cases with their exact location and remote-sensing equipment to track rainfall and humidity that affects mosquito breeding.

Last year, Wong and a fellow ISU student presented the idea in Vienna to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Wong continued her research into HI-STAR last summer under NASA's Healthy Planet program, showcasing the project at a number of conferences in Germany last fall. Now, the UN's Office of Outer Space Affairs has endorsed HI-STAR, and the European Space Agency has asked to see a proposal for a pilot project. "It's hard to say what motivates me to help other people," says the Toronto native, recently nominated for the Canadian Medical Association award for excellence in health promotion. "I just feel that when you give of yourself, you always get back so much more."

Ultimately, her research should help companies exploiting such unconventional oil sources as the massive tar sands near Fort McMurray, Alta., to identify where the least degraded oil exists, making recovery more cost-effective. "I play on the computer," says Adams. "And by playing, I can see how it might work in the real world—which really appeals to me."

MARK SCHAAN, 25, CIVIC REFORMER

The Shrove Tuesday sermon at Oxford University's New College Chapel was not the usual fare this year. The guest preacher, a Mennonite, urged others to view Lent as a time not of self-sacrifice, but of self-love. That's the sort of unconventional thinking that Mark Schaan, a Winnipeg-born Rhodes Scholar, brings to his political activism. Says Schaan: "I love the opportunity to put together a thought that's complex."

That might make him a perfect fit for academia. And Schaan does plan to stretch his master's research on welfare-to-work programs into an Oxford doctorate, aiming to develop an approach to social policy that "bridges" the worlds of lobbyists and pundits. But he won't, he says, "get sucked into" the ivory tower for good. "I need to be affecting the communities I care about."

That's something he's been doing for years now. A "loyal Tory" from the age of 13, his blue stripes quickly faded when he moved to Ontario to take political science at the University of Waterloo. It was 1997, the height of Mike Harris' Common Sense Revolution. As president of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, Schaan spearheaded the battle against tuition hikes and privatization. His efforts paid off when the government included some OUSA recommendations in its act permitting private universities. On his home turf, he persuaded five young Bloc Québécois MPs to meet with campus federalists, initiating debate on unity issues.

It's not clear any party will get a piece of him when he returns to Canada—he's thinking more along the lines of journalism, the civil service or working for an NGO. Still, he's not one to stand on the sidelines. "Mark isn't just about talking about change," says Clark Hortsing-Perna, CEO of the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation, which chose Schaan as a 1997 recipient. "He's about *doing* it."

PHOTOGRAPH BY REGINA GARCIA



ERIN WALTON, 25, PLANETARY GEOLOGIST

There are only about three dozen scientists in the world, give or take, who are versed in Martian meteorites. To an outsider, that might suggest limited job prospects for a promising young geologist with a passion for the red planet, but Erin Walton knows better. The doctoral candidate in geology at the University of New Brunswick's Planetary and Space Science Centre in Fredericton points out that there are plans to send a mission to Mars every two years over the next two decades. "Mars is where it's at right now," says Walton. "There's a huge drive toward exploration within the international community. Without a doubt, eventually, there will be people on Mars."

Walton, who grew up in the Fredericton area, studies how bits of Mars are thrust into space by comets or meteorites that slam into the planet with a force equivalent to many millions of tons of TNT. There are just 30 meteorites on Earth known to have come from Mars. Walton has examined rare samples recovered from Morocco, Libya, Nigeria, California and Antarctica for clues to their age, mineral composition and the violent forces that landed them here. This research has earned her recognition from the Canadian Space Agency, which this year awarded her $14,000 to supplement a $42,000 scholarship from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council. With the CSA designing a Mars mission for 2011, Walton isn't worried about her future. 'There are going to be a lot of opportunities." You might say the sky's the limit.





OBI GRIFFITH, 26, MEDICAL RESEARCHER

Obi Griffith—short for Obi Wan Kenobi Griffith, which his father favoured but his mother vetoed—has agreed to show up at the busy entrance of the B.C. Cancer Agency in Vancouver. He stands there, burdened by the universal student backpack, knowing well the pain and fear that preoccupies many of those brushing past him to their morning appointments. These people inspire him, he says later, nursing a coffee. "I didn't used to feel that way."

Griffith is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in the University of British Columbia's department of medical genetics. His research—supervised by Steven Jones, head of bioinformatics at the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, a part of the cancer agency—aims to identify those genes with the potential to malfunction and cause cancer. He hopes his work will provide a tool for diagnosis and treatment. Already his specialty in bioinformatics has yielded exciting results. Last spring—working almost 40 hours straight fuelled by junk food and coffee—he was part of a national scientific team that made the genome centre the first lab in the world to crack the genetic code for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Since last August, in a stellar example of applied genetics, Griffith's former job as a sequence finisher at the centre has been filled by his fraternal twin brother Malachi. "I got the opportunity to work on the SARS virus, and right now he's working on the avian flu virus," Obi says. The twins graduated with honours in biology and biochemistry from the University of Winnipeg. Both plan careers in genetic cancer research. This fall, Malachi enters the same Ph.D. program as his twin. "It's kind of uncanny, actually," says Obi.

It's no less strange that Obi finds himself a cancer researcher. It was a science too painful to contemplate after their mother, Rhéa, died of breast cancer the year the twins graduated from high school in Beausejour, Man. The loss left Obi "cynical" about the value of medical research. "It didn't really help her out," he says. "I was not really very positive about coming up with a cancer cure, or whether it should be attempted." Then two other family members were saved by cancer therapies, and Obi set aside his pain to commit to finding a cure. "Maybe eventually, we'll be able to save everyone from cancer," he says. "The more I started to think about it, the more I realized I'd like to be part of that.'

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S. PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANNON MENDES

KAT KINCH, 25, LEGAL ADVOCATE

Kat Kinch was in kindergarten in Warkworth, Ont., when the equality provision of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into force in 1985. "My knowledge," she says with a laugh, "was not very strong at the time."

That changed after Kinch graduated from McMaster University and enrolled in law at the University of British Columbia. Part of law's appeal—especially what she sees as the underused potential of constitutional equality guarantees—is the opportunity to apply her studies beyond the lecture hall. Kinch won the law faculty's award for the best all-round graduating student this March, while juggling a daunting load of outside projects. She helped research a handbook for lawyers and girls on the new Youth Criminal Justice Act and served on a working group looking at the human rights interests of single mothers on social assistance. As well, she co-authored a report on prostitution laws, concluding that they endanger sex trade workers and violate their constitutional rights.

This fall, Kinch starts as a law clerk at the B.C. Supreme Court before articling with a Vancouver litigation firm. She's anticipating her first constitutional challenge. To her, the Charter is a commitment to a better country. When the standard falls short of that ideal, she says with a judge-charming grin, "Time to get working on it."

KARLEE SILVER, 24, IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCHER

Winnipeg native Karlee Silver says it was definitely her first love—rowing—that sparked her interest in biochemistry. "Training myself to function a certain way really got me thinking about how the human body works," says the University of Winnipeg graduate. A five-time recipient of Manitoba's Order of Sport Excellence and a Rhodes Scholar, Silver now spends her days in an immunology lab at Oxford, working towards her doctorate—and a better understanding of the factors that lead to a breakdown of the immune system. "The problem-solving aspect of it really appeals to me," says Silver. "There are days when you look at the test tubes and ask, 'How does this fit in?' But other times, looking at your results, you think, 'Hey, I'm the first one to see this and it might actually be fairly important.'"

MICHAEL SPANNER, 27, LASER PHYSICIST

Today's ultra-fast lasers are a bit like early photography, explains Michael Spanner, a Ph.D. physics student at the University of Waterloo. As early advances quickened shutter speeds, it became possible to freeze a galloping horse in mid-stride. Similarly, lasers are now so fast it's possible to visualize how molecules move, vibrate and interact. Spanner, a native of North Bay, Ont., employs laser pulses in the femtosecond

CONTINUES ON PAGE 46

ADRIAN CHAN, 28, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

Research proposal: find out what was in the water in the Waterloo, Ont., neighbourhood where Adrian Chan grew up. Carleton University's rising star is one of seven siblings—six of whom will soon have earned MDs or Ph.D.s. The soft-spoken scientist laughs when asked if his parents drove their brood to excel. "For some reason, we were quite well-behaved," he chuckles. "It was a matter of respecting your parents because, you know, they're your parents."

Even in this family of stellar achievers, Chan's accomplishments are remarkable. He's an international award-winner in biomedical engineering, the cutting-edge combination of high-tech and health. Chan works on decoding the tiny electrical signals muscles make. One use he's exploring: prosthetic limbs that move according to the signals from the muscles they are attached to. Another: by attaching sensors over the face and throat muscles that form words, scientists can detect what a person is saying through mouth movement—in a form of indirect lip reading—even in a noisy jet cockpit.

The soft-spoken scientist gets excited talking about the research lab he's setting up at Carleton, with more than $400,000 in new federal and provincial funding. But he gets even more excited chatting about another passion—working for the Shad Valley program that brings top high school students to Canadian university campuses every summer for intensive learning about science and entrepreneurship. "I end up exhausted, but inspired," Chan says. "Those are the *real* leaders of tomorrow."

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIST-AN FLEURY

BEN PERRIN, 2[illegible], ACTIVIST

Ben Perrin knows he can't stop human trafficking in Cambodia—but it's worth trying. "When our grandparents were in their 20s, they were fighting Nazi Germany," says Perrin, the executive director of Future Group, a Calgary-based non-profit organization committed to helping victims of international human trafficking. "This is one of my generation's



challenges and I'm not willing to sit back."

Since its inception four years ago, Perrin has been the guiding force behind Future Group. So far, it has reached about 70,000 children in Cambodia, educating them on the risks of human trafficking. One aspect is helping children memorize their last names and addresses. "Many kids don't know these things," says Perrin, who created activity books to make learning fun. "I met a nine-year-old girl who had been saved from the sex trade but didn't know what village she was from or her parent's last name. She had no hope of going home. It was heartbreaking."

Perrin and his team are also committed to going after the predators. They've set up a Web site (*www.youwillbecaught.com*), and created pamphlets to inform foreigners about the pain the sex trade causes children. Earlier this year, Perrin's team played a role in the capture of a Westerner who eventually pled guilty to having sexual contact with minors in Cambodia. "We're only talking about one pedophile," says Perrin, now studying law at the University of Toronto. "It's sad a small group of twentysomethings from Canada with an annual budget of $25,000 are leading the charge on this issue. We just can't wait for government action. The need is too great."



JAMES MILNER, 29, REFUGEE ADVOCATE

When James Milner earns his doctorate in development studies from Oxford next year, he could easily land a cushy tenure track gig at a top university and coast comfortably through life. But that wouldn't be his style. "If I want to speak with any authority on the hardships refugees face, I need to spend time with them," says Milner, who recently returned from five weeks of field work in Tanzania and Kenya. "Their experience is vital to my research and is a source of inspiration."

Backed by a B.A. in peace and conflict studies from the University of Toronto and a master's from Oxford, Milner was selected by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation for one of its prestigious humanities and social science awards last year. He's using his grant to support his research at Oxford, which is focused on the protection of refugees. Although he's a proven scholar, Milner's non-academic credentials are most impressive. He has been a consultant with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, helping in the resettling of dozens of families around the world. As well, he has written two chapters in the UNHCR's Resettlement Handbook, and is an adviser to the U.K. Home Office and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles. "It's rewarding when I get to see life restarting for refugees in a new country," says Milner, recently named a visiting scholar at York University. "Of course I also receive phone calls and e-mails from refugees I've met who have fallen through the cracks and still face serious economic hardship. It's very disheartening, but it's the reason I continue searching for solutions."

Milner's introduction to the plight of refugees came during a church mission to Malawi in 1992. "I understood for the first time what it meant to say I was a Christian and what it meant to have a relationship with God," says Milner, who spent that summer distributing food during a deadly drought. "I discovered this is how I can quietly make a difference for some of the world's greatest victims. This work is a form of worship for me."

range—bursts of light that last a mere 0.0000000000000001 seconds. Industries that depend heavily on the subtleties of chemistry—say, pharmaceutical firms—are deeply interested.

Taking laser technology a step further, Spanner also studies how these intense light beams can be used to move and alter molecules and atoms. That sort of über dexterity could be exploited to accelerate a chemical reaction, or fashion molecules and atoms into the circuits required for quantum computers, which the military thinks can be used to break impenetrable encryption codes.

To date, Spanner has published at least 20 papers, including one on his own—an accomplishment that he's parlayed into plans for a post-doc at the University of Toronto. What's his publishing prowess mean to him? "Not much," Spanner responds with a hearty laugh. "I do physics because it's fun."

ALEXANDRA CONLIFFE, 24, ENGINEER

As clubs go, it's rather select: members include such eminent Canadians as neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield and former governor general Roland Michener. Now Alexandra Conliffe is set to join the elite ranks of Rhodes Scholars. This fall, the Ottawa native will head to Oxford to start her master's studies in environmental change and forced migration. A founder of the McGill chapter of Engineers Without Borders, Conliffe has already worked on developing water resources in Uzbekistan, and has taught English in two Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. With big ambitions to help find solutions to the world's looming crises, the soon to be graduate of McGill engineering is focused on the road ahead. "I see where there are problems," says Conliffe. "What I'm trying to do now is acquire the tools to address those issues."

PASCALE FOURNIER, 29, WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE

When the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation created its prestigious humanities and social science awards last year, one of the 12 Canadians named a Trudeau Scholar was Pascale Fournier. Her application was "stunning," says Peter Sahlas, the foundation's executive program director—and obviously her topic "is very hot." With a grant of up

CONTINUES ON PAGE 48

PHOTOGRAPH BY JONATHAN WORTH



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NURJAHAN AKHLAQ, 24, FILMMAKER

Akhlaq was just 13 when she saw her first art house film. She discovered a video of *Europa*, Lars von Trier's bleak portrayal of post-war Germany, and watched it over and over again. "I don't think I grasped what it was about," she now says. "Something about the mood struck me—and gave her a taste of how powerful moving images can be. Still, the daughter of two renowned Pakistani artists—painter Zahoor ul Akhlaq and potter Shehrezade Alam—spent her teens assuming she would become a psychologist or anthropologist. She says: "I wanted to be different."

The artist, however, could not be denied—especially after 1999. That year, her father and older sister were murdered in the family's Lahore home, which they had maintained after emigrating to Toronto in 1993. After taking a year off during which she says, "I felt at a loss for how to articulate my grief," Akhlaq began studying film at Concordia University. There she produced *Flight*, a haunting, painterly exploration of the tragedy that won best student documentary at the Montreal World Film Festival last September. She parlayed that success into a Canada Council grant and is now reworking the film, preparing it for the international festival circuit. According to Catherine MacKenzie, chair of Concordia's School of Cinema, Akhlaq's talent lies in her ability to create a "sequence of almost abstract images of movement and colour, while still telling a story." That determination "to say what she has to say in exactly the way she wants to," MacKenzie adds, "will serve her very well in the future."



AARON BARKHOUSE, 22, ENERGY RESEARCHER

Modesty wedded to a keen appreciation of science's unpredictability would prevent Aaron Barkhouse from ever describing his lab work as potentially world-altering. That said, it is possible his search for clean energy could someday have a profound impact. Barkhouse, a Rhodes Scholar, moves in an arcane world of power and plastics, searching for low cost, easy-to-use materials with which to build solar panels. It's early yet, cautions the native of Lawrencetown, N.S.. While plastic solar cells already exist, they remain disappointingly inefficient. Barkhouse wants to change that, and envisions a day when electric cars and solar-powered homes are the norm. "Both seem to be at the fringes of the market," says Barkhouse, "but I'd like to see them go from a novelty to a realistic option."

A high-school science project on hydrogen fuel cells piqued Barkhouse's passion in alternative energy and eventually led him to an honours degree in physics from Dalhousie University. Along the way he posted a stunning 4.22 grade point average (out of 4.3) during his four undergraduate years, putting him at the top of his graduating class and earning him the Governor General's prestigious Silver Medal. In his spare time, Barkhouse played varsity soccer and captained Nova Scotia's team in the 2001 Canada Games. He has continued to play at Oxford, where he is in his first year of a Ph.D. But it hasn't all been easy. "I wasn't a big fan of the food at first," he admits. "It was all pub-style, deep-fried everything." Fortunately for us, his taste for physics remains insatiable.

to $200,000 over four years, Fournier is now doing her doctorate at Harvard University. Her focus: reconciling the cultural practices of Muslims with the equality rights of women. The Quebec City native is in high demand, having just returned from a two-week lecture tour in Italy, she was also a visiting professor at the Institute for Women's Studies & Research in Tehran this year.

Folks at home are keen to get a piece of her as well. Fournier, who has worked as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and polished off two master's degrees in the seven years since she graduated from law school at Universite Laval, has been asked by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and a Quebec women's rights group to write an official report opposing an initiative by the Canadian Society of Muslims to set up a family law court based on shariah law. And while she completes her dissertation, she will be teaching a course on Muslim women's rights at McGill in the upcoming academic year. Ultimately, says Fournier, "I want to have the authority to make people listen. I think I'm getting there."

FELIX-ANTOINE BOUDREAULT, 26, CIVIC-MINDED ENGINEER

Félix-Antoine Boudreault is talking about building bridges, both real and metaphorical, with a missionary zeal. "When people thank you because you're building something that will make their life better, it's amazing," says the civil engineer, who's heading back to Africa for the fourth time in five years. "I meet people all the time who ask why I'm going there. They think I'm crazy or that I can't find a job here. But I'm not in it for the money."

Boudreault—who will soon hand his McGill professors the final draft of his master's thesis—has already worked on development projects in Ghana, Togo, Cameroon and the Central African Republic. Even as a kid in St. Nicolas, a suburb of Quebec City, he knew his ambitions lay overseas. And he is blunt about why he chooses to use his skills there rather than on office buildings or condo towers. "For me this is a way to humanize a profession with a bad reputation."

It's an uncommon way of thinking that has already gained Boudreault much attention. *La Presse* has named him one of their personalities of the year. Forces Avenir, a Quebec body promoting young leaders, awarded him a $15,000 prize. A McGill paper compared his campus profile to that of a "rock star," though with his wire-frame glasses, he looks more like a record-store clerk.

Boudreault has it all mapped out. Maybe five more years on the development front lines, another degree, and ultimately a job designing policies rather than putting them into action. Whatever happens, he's determined to make a difference. "If you only complain," he says, "you can never change things."

Written by Brian Bergman, Sue Ferguson, Jonathon Gatehouse, John Geddes, Lianne George, Danylo Hawaleshka, John Intini and Ken MacQueen

PHOTOGRAPH BY REGINA GARCIA

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A place to play

Walk the woodland trails along the Niagara Escarpment. See butterflies, baboons and elephants up close. Gather eggs at an old-time farm or climb into the cockpit of a vintage aircraft



The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum at Hamilton airport is a great destination for history buffs

HISTORY

Historic Hamilton

Although locals refer to it as a castle, Dundurn National Historic Site is actually an 1835 regency-style manor built high above Burlington Bay by politician Sir Allan McNab, who loved to entertain guests in grand style while a team of servants toiled below stairs.

Children are fascinated by the difference between upstairs and downstairs lives. An hour-long guided tour of the house begins with the grand reception rooms and a magnificent emerald green dining room, where the table seated 12 and eight-course dinners were not uncommon. It concludes below stairs where youngsters learn about the lives of the laundress, cook, scullery maid and butler. In the laundry room, see the giant cauldrons where all the linens were washed, then pressed with assorted irons.

> At Dundurn "castle" Sir Allan McNab entertained lavishly while teams of servants worked below stairs

In the gas-lit kitchen, the cook still bakes biscuits on the restored cast-iron stove for visitors to sample. Servants even had to sleep here, typically on narrow cots in cramped, windowless rooms. After showing your kids the sinks where 13-year-old scullery maids regularly scrubbed up the dishes, pots and pans, cleaning the table won't seem such an onerous task.

Admission to the Dundurn National Historic Site includes a visit to the on-site Hamilton Military Museum where kids will enjoy trying on old uniforms and playing make believe.

Winged fascination

More than 40 vintage airplanes are displayed at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. Visitors are permitted to experience the aircraft firsthand; kids can climb into the cockpit of a Second World War trainer or sit at the controls of jet and press a button to close the cockpit canopy.

This is a museum where the old aircraft are flown regularly; you'll smell the engine oil and hear the roaring engines. On weekends, you may see a Lancaster bomber, or Second World War training biplanes may be flying. Many vintage aircraft are featured in the annual Father's Day weekend airshow.

Dundurn National Historic Site
905 546-2872
www.hamilton.ca

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
905-679-4183, 877-347-3359
www.warplane.com

WILDLIFE

Butterflies galore

Butterflies galore cavort indoors and out at the Wings of Paradise Butterfly Conservatory near Cambridge.

First, explore the tropical greenhouse to see some 2,000 butterflies—Owls, Long-wings, Clippers, Tigers, Postmen and Sulfurs—flying freely amid the towering bamboo grove and searching for nectar among the blooming orchids and hibiscus. Watch them emerge from their chrysalides at the hatchery. Children will squeal with delight as saucer-sized Blue Morphos come to rest on or near them.

Outdoors, specially-planted gardens attract many wild butterflies including migrating Monarchs, seen in late August and early September as they wing their way to warmer climes in sunny Mexico.

Big game hunting

Although African Lion Safari has added many entertaining new attractions over the years—parrot show, water playground and birds of prey demonstration—nothing tops the thrill of having baboons clambering over your car, or giraffes peering at you through the window. Take the safari bus if you are worried about possible damage to your antenna or trim caused by inquisitive primates on the 9-km drive that winds through the park.

Wings of Paradise Butterfly Conservatory
519-653-1234
www.wingsofparadise.com

African Lion Safari
800-461-WILD,
519-623-2620
www.lionsafari.com

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HISTORY

Life long ago



Enter the smoky darkness of an Iroquoian longhouse like this one to experience indigenous life before European contact

Corn pollen buried deep in the sediment of a woodland lake led scientists to the site of a 15th-century Iroquoian village. Today, five of the longhouses at Crawford Lake Conservation Area and Iroquoian Village in Milton have been rebuilt to show how indigenous people lived before European contact.

Life in a reconstructed, bark-covered, Iroquoian longhouse captures the imagination of young and old alike. Enter the smoky darkness to learn how clans of up to 90 people lived together in a single dwelling. Kids can feel what it was like to lie down on a bed of furs, try pounding corn in a stone mortar or make a small craft to take home as a souvenir.

Later, take a walk along several woodland trails, including a 1.4-km loop around the lake that's easily managed with small children and strollers. More ambitious routes lead to dramatic views from the top of the Niagara Escarpment.

Old-time village

When you walk through the covered bridge at Doon Heritage Crossroads, you step back in time to a 1914 rural village.

For city kids, the summertime activities give them a taste of life on a farm. Pick up a program that lists a daily roster that might include a milking demonstration, turning the crank on a cream separator, kneading bread dough, or gathering eggs from the chicken coop and learning how to grade them.

Life isn't all chores, though. Your kids will love some of the old-time amusements like learning how to walk on stilts, playing croquet or fishing in the stream with a bamboo pole and bread-dough bait. More than 30 historic buildings in an attractive 60-acre site reflect local Kitchener-Waterloo heritage. Visit a butcher, blacksmith, weavery and general store, and learn about old-order Mennonite life at the Martin farmhouse.

Crawford Lake Conservation Area and Iroquoian Village
905-854-0234
www.conservationhalton.on.ca

Doon Heritage Crossroads
519-748-1914
www.region.waterloo.on.ca



What's it like to dig for dinosaur bones? Find out at the Children's Museum

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Preshoolers' pick

For fun and adventure on a rainy day, head for the Children's Museum located in a renovated school building in London.

Tots will love playing on The Street Where I Live, pumping pretend gas for customers driving up in toy cars and serving up plastic eggs at the café.

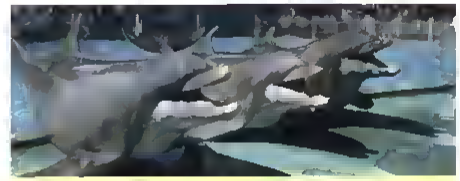
Kids love trying out the old-fashioned kitchen gadgets in the 19th century home. Budding scientists can explore mock caves, travel into outer space, or visit the prehistoric past as they learn how to dig for dinosaur bones.

Unlike most museums, the exhibits here are meant to be touched, and making noise or having fun is not frowned upon. Plan on spending the better part of the day because your children simply won't want to go home.

London Regional Children's Museum
519-434-5726
www.londonchildrensmuseum.ca

Family frolics

The famed waterfalls are just the beginning of the Niagara experience. Drive scenic Niagara Parkway and discover more natural wonders.



The friendly dolphins at Marineland are always ready to entertain

Niagara's newest attraction is the spectacular Niagara Falls Aviary, where 350 bird species from Africa, Australia, South America and southeast Asia live in a setting that resembles a ruined temple overrun by tropical jungle.

Walk through a dark nocturnal display populated by live poison arrow frogs, giant Madagascar cockroaches and bats as you learn about life in a tropical forest. Then walk down into the 14,000-sq.-ft., three-storey main aviary, as though descending through the forest canopy. Free-flying toucans, hornbills and thrushes soar above the 12-metre-tall palm trees while ducks, pheasants and partridges waddle and strut along the paths below.

The tropical theme continues at Niagara Falls Butterfly Conservatory, where some 2,000 amazing butterflies flutter among the flowers. Watch them up close at feeding stations stocked with fruit. Wear bright colours and one of the Blue Morpho or Red Admiral butterflies will almost certainly land on you.

Killer whales, sea lions, walruses and dolphins perform in an open-air theatre at Marineland. The new Arctic Cove beluga habitat allows visitors to get up close to the sociable white whales. Tots always enjoy feeding the friendly deer in the game park.

Teenagers love the hair-raising rides like Dragon Mountain, the world's largest steel roller-coaster covering 30 acres of tunnels, loops and hills. New this year, the Sky Screamer shoots riders 120 metres up the world's tallest triple tower ride at speeds up to 96 kph for a brief view of the Falls and surrounding area before plummeting earthward.

Niagara Falls Aviary
866-994-0090, 905-356-8888
www.niagarafallsaviary.com

Niagara Falls Butterfly Conservatory 905-356-8119
www.niagaraparks.com

Marineland 905-356-9565
www.marinelandcanada.com

General information
www.discoverniagara.com

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- Admission for four to both the Niagara Bird Aviary and the Niagara Butterfly Conservatory.
- A tour for four on the Maid of the Mist.
- Local bicycle rental for four for the duration of the stay.
- An 18-hole round of golf for four at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course.
- Four tickets to a select performance at the Shaw Festival.

Availability of some prize components is subject to ... Contest start date is May 17, 2004. Contest open to all residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence by August 15, ... closing date. Approximate prize value ... based on Vancouver departure. A random selection of the potential winner will be made on August 31, 2004. Before being declared the winner, the selected ... a mathematical skill-testing question. No purchase required. Odds of winning are based on number of entries received. See familyontheroad.ca for contest details.

Chillin' in the city

Whoosh down a waterslide, explore secret passages in Toronto's famous castle, then try your best slap shot against an NHL goalie.

AMUSEMENT PARKS

On the waterfront



There's no shortage of fun and excitement at Ontario Place water park minutes from downtown Toronto

Take the ferry to Toronto Island from the foot of Bay Street and the kids will be having a good time before you even get there, just watching gulls circling the harbour and seeing the bustling boat traffic. At Centreville Amusement Park, an all-inclusive pass includes 30 not-too-scary rides like swan boats, an antique carousel and the ever-popular log flume.

West along the shore of Lake Ontario, Ontario Place boasts the city's only downtown water park, plus a host of other attractions. Youngsters eager to take the wheel will love the O.P. Driving School, where they get a brief lesson in the rules of the road before driving an electric car along a realistic course complete with road signs. Jutting into the lake, Ontario Place is a great place to watch fireworks with special shows scheduled for June 26, July 1 and July 3.

Next door to Ontario Place, the Canadian National Exhibition is the end-of-summer ritual no teenager wants to miss. From August 20 to September 6, ride an elephant, eat corn dogs and candy floss, try to win a giant fuzzy toy on the midway, then scream yourself silly on 65 rides, from toddler-friendly carousels to roller-coasters with enough G-force to flatten your face. It all wraps up in a deafening roar as the CAF Snowbirds and stunt flying aircraft fly overhead at the annual Labour Day weekend air show from September 4 to 6.

Centreville Amusement Park
416-203-0405
www.centreisland.ca

Ontario Place
866-ONE-4 FUN
www.ontarioplace.com

Canadian National Exhibition
www.theex.com

OUT OF TOWN

Trains big and small

Train buffs young and old adore the South Simcoe Railway, where a historic steam locomotive chugs past forests and fields between the towns of Tottenham and Beeton, just northwest of Toronto.

Built for the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1883, Locomotive 136 is now beautifully restored and has been featured in various television series, including the CBC's The National Dream and the popular children's show Shining Time Station. For the one-hour round trip, you'll ride in a historic 1926 coach from the original Toronto-Hamilton-Buffalo Railway. Younger kids may not be much interested in the history, but they'll love the billowing clouds of steam and the loud whistle, and their eyes will widen with awe as the conductor spins the legend of the mysterious ghost train that jumped the tracks, never to be seen again.

> Hear the legend of the mysterious ghost train that jumped the tracks, never to be seen again

If grandma is travelling with you, she won't want to miss the meticulously groomed flower beds, topiaries and tree-lined paths of Cullen Gardens and Miniature Village, north of Whitby. This is literally small-town Ontario. All of the houses, barns and businesses are faithful reproductions of actual Ontario buildings rendered in 1/12 scale, all populated by tiny plastic people who swim in their backyard pools or go about their business on Main Street.

A delightful sense of humour permeates the miniature world's tableaux, such as the traffic jams on the northbound highway to miniature cottage country, where lilliputian motor boats cruise the puddle-sized lakes and two tiny trains trundle cheerfully through the tunnels and across bridges.

South Simcoe Railway
905-936-5815
www.steamtrain.com

Cullen Gardens
905-686-1600
800-461 1821 (Ont. & Que. only)
www.cullengardens.com

HISTORIC HOMES

Cabins and castles

Enjoy the slower pace of 19th-century life at Black Creek Pioneer Village on the northern fringe of Toronto, where costumed guides at 35 historic buildings welcome visitors with stories of early settlers and Victorian village life.

Grandparents enjoy seeing old-time crafts like tinsmithing, typesetting or broom making while preschoolers love the barnyard animals including draft horses, pigs, sheep and geese.

> Adults and children alike will delight in the attractions at Black Creek Pioneer Village

Walk the wooden plank sidewalks to the one-room school house or settler Daniel Stong's 1816 log home, where children are fascinated by the open-hearth cooking, on a hot summer day, they'll be happy to try the handpump outside. Afterwards, treat them to a stick of old-fashioned hard candy at the general store.

Older kids will want to visit on one of many special event days, such as the Battle of Black Creek (June 19 and 20) to see realistic historical re-enactments of skirmishes like those during the Rebellion of 1837. Adults appreciate the remarkable range of authentic period gardens—biblical, medicinal, and weaver's dye plants.

At stately Casa Loma, parents will be interested by the story of how Sir Henry Pellat's ambitious medieval-style castle contributed to his financial ruin. To kids, it's a neat old castle with suitably spooky underground tunnels and secret passages. Allow some time to walk through the five acres of outstanding gardens. Learn more about life in Edwardian Toronto at genteel neighbouring Spadina House.

Black Creek Pioneer Village
416-736-1733
www.blackcreek.ca

Casa Loma
416-923-1171
www.casaloma.org

Spadina House
416-392-6910



Toronto's famed castle Casa Loma captures the imagination

ENTERTAINMENT

Joust for fun

Never mind the history, the entertainment value at Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament is great. The excellent staging, well-trained Andalusian stallions and handsome armoured knights will have tween-age girls near swooning. As you don your paper crowns and devour your "dragon flesh", an Olde-English announcer describes the action and the weaponry. You may even learn to roll a bola from an albarda. Young adventurers will want to stay for the post-show quest, complete with swinging bridges, riddles and team-building games. Your kids will proclaim you a hero for bringing them here.

Medieval Times
416-260-1234, 800 563-1190
www.medievaltimes.com



The crowd devours "dragon flesh" while medieval knights do battle

SPORTS

Hockey's heroes

Home of the original Stanley Cup, the Hockey Hall of Fame offers all the requisite hockey lore—like Wayne Gretzky's first skates—plus enough hands-on exhibits to keep young fans happily engaged for an afternoon or longer.

They'll enjoy taking their best slapshots against Hall of Fame goalies, then suiting up to see what it feels like to be in the net when Mark Messier or the Great One fire off 110-kph shots. Come early to beat the lineups.

Hockey Hall of Fame
416-360 7765
www.hhof.com

The legend lives on



The new 2005 Chrysler 300 is the modern interpretation of the legendary "Letter Series" cars. Chrysler 300 and the HEMI®-powered 300C are roomy and comfortable performance sedans that feature elegant appointments and outstanding technology including an Electronic Stability Program (ESP) for secure all-weather control. For more information, please visit chrysler.ca

Remember to enter our
On The Road Sweepstakes
for your chance to
WIN a fabulous getaway in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.

See page 5 for details

Where nature and history come alive

Walk through the tree-tops on the Niagara Escarpment, then explore a Huron longhouse. Howl with the wolves in Algonquin Park and ride a steam train through Muskoka forests. There's plenty to see, do and learn in Central Ontario

EXPLORATION

The call of Georgian Bay



Sailing a replica 19th century tall ship at Discovery Harbour

At the highest point along the Niagara Escarpment, the Scenic Caves Nature Adventure offers spectacular views and interesting hikes through caverns, crags and crevices.

Explore the forest canopy 15 metres above the ground on the new, guided tree-top walkway tour. You'll inch your way along the 25-cm-wide plank path that winds 600 metres through the tops of 200-year-old oaks. Cruise back to earth along four optional zip lines. Harnesses, helmets, gloves and pulleys are provided for the challenging two-and-a-half to three-hour tour.

Families with younger children will find plenty of thrills crossing the gently swaying suspension bridge—one of the longest in Ontario—with views across Georgian Bay. The rugged terrain is not suited to strollers, so bring a backpack for tots.

History students will find an engrossing lesson near Midland at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, a reconstructed 17th century French Jesuit mission where the values of renaissance Europe met the indigenous Huron culture with drastic consequences for all.

> Travel back to the 17th century, where the values of renaissance Europe met indigenous Huron culture.

An engaging 20-minute multi-media presentation will keep their attention while setting the stage for a self-guided tour through the reconstructed site. University students dressed in period costume engage children in hands-on activities such as drilling holes with antique carpentry tools or pumping the bellows in the forge while barnyard animals keep tots happy and amused.

Be sure to visit the neighbouring Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre to see waterfowl, frogs and turtles in a 1,200-hectare wetland conservation area renowned for its successful reintroduction of trumpeter swans. Woodland paths and a network of floating boardwalks make it easy to explore the marsh where swans can be sighted. In early summer, you may see fluffy cygnets bobbing in the water behind their protective parents.

For an up close view of wildlife, treat your kids to one of the guided canoe experiences. Children six years old and up may participate in the 45-minute trip through the marsh in eight- and 10-passenger canoes steered by a staff naturalist.

It would be difficult to find a more postcard pretty stretch of Georgian Bay shoreline than the 2-km-long site of Discovery Harbour at Penetanguishene, but in the early 19th century, the fear of American invasion gripped these shores, prompting the British to build this naval and military base.

Today, Discovery Harbour is the home port for two full-scale replica Royal Navy vessels: HMS Bee and HMS Tecumseth. These wooden tall ships conjure romantic visions of life on the high seas, but children soon learn there was very little romance to 19th-century British naval life. Sailors were often abducted, rather than recruited, into a rum-soaked term of service where they existed on salt pork and hard tack. Your youngsters can sign on for their tour of duty with a quill pen, then take a turn swabbing the deck.

Scenic Caves Nature Adventures
705-446-0256
www.scenicecaves.com
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
705-526-7809
www.wyemarsh.com
Huronia Historical Parks
Discovery Harbour
705-549-8064
Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
705-526-7838
www.hhp.on.ca



The Scenic Caves near Collingwood provide opportunities to explore

FAMILY ATTRACTIONS

Muskoka family favourites



All aboard! Ride this authentic 1928 train at Muskoka Heritage Place.

The story of cottage country's pioneering settlers is presented so well that most kids won't even notice the social history lesson at Muskoka Heritage Place. They'll love trying the 19th-century games like stilt-walking and hoops, then getting an ice cream at the general store that sold everything from corsets to coal oil, visiting the trapper's riverside cabin and sampling some pioneer baking at one of the historic farm homes. The real star of this show is the beautifully restored 1928 Portage Flyer Steam Train. Hop aboard the open-air car for a scenic 2-km trip along the Muskoka River to the shores of Fairy Lake.

Since 1955, Santa Claus has spent his summers in a log cabin at Santa's Village near Bracebridge. Toddlers squeal with glee at the dappled fallow deer and goats, and enjoy gentle rides like the vintage carousel. Bring bathing suits to enjoy the fountains in the spray pad. Restless teens will agree to stop here if they can head for the go-carts and laser tag attraction at neighbouring Sportsland.

Muskoka Heritage Place
705-789-7576
www.muskokaheritageplace.org
Santa's Village
705-645-2512
www.santasvillage.ca

MUSEUMS

Literary Leacock

An easy-to-take lesson in Can. Lit. for older kids, a tour through Leacock Museum in Orillia is peppered with amusing anecdotes from the life of the great Canadian humorist, Stephen Leacock. Built in 1928, this gracious home on the shores of Lake Couchiching boasts many literary artifacts from his remarkable career, including a letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald, then a Princeton student eager to show his work to the much-admired Leacock. Be sure to read *Sunshine Sketches* before you come. Stay for lunch at the museum's waterfront café.

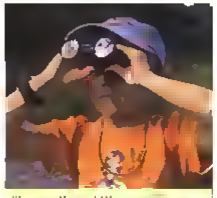
Leacock Museum
705-329-1908
www.leacockmuseum.com

ADVENTURE

Wild Algonquin for young explorers

It's very name is synonymous with wilderness. Just three hours north of Toronto, Algonquin Park's myriad lakes and maple-covered hills are Ontario icons. If the prospect of paddling through the interior with toddlers in tow seems too challenging, the park offers many easy ways for families to experience wildlife.

From mid-May to early June, your chances of spotting moose are excellent along the 56-km stretch of Hwy. 60 that runs through the park. During the months before sodium-rich aquatic plants are available, the salt-craving moose visit roadside marshes. Drive slowly and keep your eyes peeled for these impressive beasts.



"I spy with my little eye"

In August, join one of the park's nighttime wolf howls. Park staffers lead a convoy of cars to a location where wolves have recently been heard. Everyone waits quietly in the dark while a naturalist howls into the night. More often than not, a wolf howls back, a thrilling experience for all.

Visit the park's interpretive centre to take part in special children's programming and learn about guided walks offered twice daily during summer months. Many of the 14 hiking trails along the Hwy. 60 corridor are easily managed on little legs, like the 2-km loop that circles a pair of beaver ponds.

Algonquin Provincial Park
613-637-2828, 705-633-5572
www.ontarioparks.com

You can have it all



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In and around Ottawa

Enjoy the pageantry of Parliament Hill, dance to native drumbeat and explore the rich diversity of the national capital's museums. For more information and to book tour packages, visit www.ottawagetaways.ca

NATIVE CULTURE

Aboriginal Experiences in the heart of Ottawa

Just a short, 10-minute walk from Parliament Hill, Aboriginal Experiences feels like it's a world away. Situated on an island in the Ottawa River, this family-friendly attraction lets everyone experience Canadian aboriginal culture first-hand.

The two-hour Taste of Native Spirit tour begins with a guided walk through the small village of traditional dwellings. Each depicts a particular native lifestyle. The travelling life of plains hunters is seen in the highly portable teepees, while the longhouse suited the more settled life of the agricultural Iroquois. Local Algonquin people built bark-covered wigwams secured with spruce roots indigenous to the central Canadian forest.

Dance performances by the seven-person Kehewin Native Performers from Alberta demonstrate traditional hoop, grass and jingle dances to the sound of the drum. Tots happily join in the final friendship dance.

Children will enjoy opportunities to make souvenir crafts and participate in group discussions. Particularly useful for young ones is the talking feather used to help people take turns listening and speaking.

Afterwards, Buffalo burgers, corn on the cob and plank-grilled salmon are served up for lunch.

Aboriginal Experiences
613-564-9494, 877-811-3233
www.aboriginalexperiences.com



Colourful indigenous performances and demonstrations highlight a visit to the nation's capital

GALLERIES

For art's sake

At first glance, the National Gallery of Canada's impressive architecture almost seems to overshadow the 10,000 works of art it houses, but its outstanding collections are not to be missed.

The gallery houses some of the most famous Canadian paintings—Emily Carr's BC rainforests, Tom Thomson's Algonquin landscapes and Cornelius Krieghoff's depictions of early Quebec—as well as European classics and controversial modern works such as Barnett Newman's *Voice of Fire*.

After an hour or two in the galleries, youngsters will appreciate the wonderful kids' programs led by friendly, outgoing staff who encourage them to create their own works of art. Children especially enjoy seeing their works hung on the gallery walls.

Many of these programs incorporate interpretive visits to this summer's special exhibition. From June 25 to September 19, it's The Great Parade: Portrait of the Artist as Clown, featuring works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Chagall and Picasso.

National Gallery of Canada
613-990-1985, 800-319-2787
www.national.gallery.ca



The National Gallery of Canada is an outstanding must see

PARLIAMENT HILL

Parliamentary pomp and pastries



Meeting a Mountie on Parliament Hill makes a memorable day in Ottawa

Pomp and ceremony are characteristic of life in official Ottawa. Between June 26 and August 28, plan to arrive at Parliament Hill before 9:45 a.m. to watch the changing of the guard, a colourful military drill featuring bagpipes, uniforms and firearms (weather permitting).

While there, reserve tickets for a guided tour of Centre Block. Although parliament will be recessed for the summer, you can visit the House of Commons and Senate chambers and the impressive parliamentary library.

When young ones grow weary of the gargoyles and Gothic architecture, take them on a ride up the elevator to the top of the Peace Tower for stunning views of the city, the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills of Quebec that lay beyond. The tower's famous 53-bell carillon can be heard weekdays at noon in free, 15-minute concerts.

Nearby Parliament Hill, historic ByWard Market bustles with local produce vendors. Aromas of cheese, fish and fresh-baked goods fill the air as street performers entertain sidewalk passersby. Boutique restaurants cater to a trendy crowd, but the kids will be happy just to munch on a Beaver Tail, a delicious local specialty. This pancake-flat pastry is enjoyed hot and topped with sugar and cinnamon.

Parliament Hill
613-992-4793, 866-599-4999
www.parl.gc.ca

It just gets better



At the touch of a button, the top comes off and the sky pours in. You no longer live beneath a glass ceiling—or any ceiling for that matter because the sky is the limit. The sun warms your face as you take a breath of freedom. You look around at all the room... room to roam, room to live and room to be you. The new Chrysler PT Cruiser Convertible. Redefining the ownership experience.
For more information, please visit chryslerca

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On The Road Sweepstakes
to WIN a fabulous getaway in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.
See page 5 for details

MUSEUMS

From fossils to fibre optics

From the name alone, the Canada Science and Technology Museum conjures up images of supercomputers understood only by those with engineering degrees, but even young children will find plenty to do here.

In the new Nortel Networks Connexions exhibit, kids can crawl through tunnels pretending to be bits of information travelling along fibre optic cables. They'll love walking through the crazy kitchen where the tilted floor is disguised in an optical illusion. Then they can climb aboard a vintage caboose in the locomotive hall and travel through space on a virtual voyage simulator.

Bring a picnic to enjoy in the outdoor Technology Park where, set amongst the trees, you'll find a 1908 Nova Scotia lighthouse and a 1957 Corvair rocker like those used to orbit the earth in the early 1960s. Monthly astronomy programs are offered at the museum's observatory.



The Science and Technology Museum has plenty to see and do

Natural wonders

Under renovation until 2009, the Canadian Museum of Nature's permanent exhibits remain open. You'll see a remarkable collection that includes some 10 million specimens including a two-headed garter snake from 1866 and Canada's largest skeleton collection featuring many impressive dinosaur fossils.

Not all the displays are dead. Brace yourself for the third floor where your kids will squeal with delight and disgust at the creepy critters exhibit, where giant cockroaches, mice, toads and slugs scuttle and squirm in terrariums.

For families who prefer fluffy baby animals, the Central Experimental Farm and Canada Agricultural Museum is home to friendly goats that love to be patted. Kids can collect chicken eggs, then see cows being milked daily at 4 p.m. in the cleanest dairy barn you've every seen.

Above the dairy barn, a museum display on tractor history offers simulated tractor rides. Chicken, rabbits, sheep and pigs populate the small animal barn. Clydesdale horses sometimes pull the wagons on tours. From here, it's a short walk to the scenic grounds of the Arboretum and ornamental flowerbeds.

Science & Technology Museum
613-991-3044
www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca

Canadian Museum of Nature
Tel. 613-556-4700
www.nature.ca

Canada Agriculture Museum
613-991-3044
www.agriculture.technomuses.ca

Riverfront rambles

Explore underground caverns, join a Kingston ghost walk and splash down the Madawaska River in a family float trip.



Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg is a window on Ontario's colonial past

HISTORICAL PARKS

Pioneer pastimes

Experience the richness of Canada's colonial past—and something of its industrial progress—at Upper Canada Village, a riverfront community of 40 or more 19th century homes and industrial buildings, many of them saved from the nearby "Lost Villages", before they were inundated by rising floodwaters of the new St. Lawrence Seaway back in the 1950s.

This first-rate living history museum has been restored and refurbished according to the technology and style of the 1860s. There's so much to see and do here, it's best to plan on spending the entire day.

A millpond still powers the old machinery in a woollen factory, where raw wool from the village's own flock of sheep is processed and woven into heirloom-quality blankets and sold at the village store.

> There's so much to see and do at Upper Canada Village...it's best to plan on spending the entire day

Pounding hammers still ring out from the blacksmith's shop and cheddar is made by hand at the cheese factory. There's a dressmaker, a cobbler, a lumber mill, even a schoolhouse where the stern master might be conducting a spelling bee.

An impressive array of special events includes some truly novel Sunday afternoon activities. Join in the heckling and bribery of an 1860s election, celebrate an old-time wedding with a slice of cake or join mourners walking behind a horse-drawn hearse in the funeral procession.

Afterwards, enjoy a traditional sit-down dinner at the restored Willard's Hotel, a light lunch at the café, or pack a picnic and take the miniature train along the river to Crysler Beach.

When you leave the park, be sure to drive along the pretty Long Sault Parkway, a series of connected islands in the river that were formerly hilltops before the Seaway flooded the area. You can stop and see displays of the transformation that took place with the construction of the Seaway, still one of the world's largest industrial projects ever undertaken. Look carefully and you will spot places where sections of old Hwy. 2 dip into the water and re-emerge on a neighbouring island.

Upper Canada Village
613-543-3704
www.uppercanadavillage.com

HISTORY

Guns 'n ghosts

Families will delight in an eerie evening exploration of the supernatural during the lantern-lit Haunted Walk of Kingston. While younger kids might be too frightened to enjoy the trip, older children will find the history of the city is much more interesting when it comes alive after dark in spooky legends of phantom organists, haunted houses and hangings at the old courthouse.

Near to Kingston, the well-preserved Fort Henry, dating back to 1812, portrays 1860s military life through parades, music and mock battles. Kids will love dressing up in red tunics, then being put through their paces, marching and saluting. They'll also want to meet the fort's mascot, a friendly white goat named David.

At 3 p.m., a garrison parade features drums, drills or an artillery display. Wednesday evenings showcase musical guests from across North America as well as elaborate drill exhibitions and fireworks. Older children will enjoy the Fort after sunset, where the resident ghosts can be visited on walking tours.

Haunted Walk of Kingston
613-549-6366
www.hauntedwalk.com

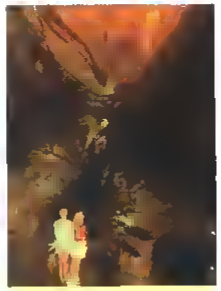
Fort Henry
613-542-7388
www.forthenry.com

CAVES

Go underground

The limestone caverns at Bonnechere Caves are some of the best and most accessible in Ontario. In the winter, the caves are home to hundreds of hibernating bats, but in the summer, the tourists come to explore, walking along a well-lit, 300-metre path that's easily managed with a stroller. Temperatures underground remain a cool 9°-10° Celsius all summer long, so bring a sweater.

A fascinating presentation on Ordovician fossils found in the area—formerly an ancient seabed—precedes the hour-long tour. Bring a picnic to enjoy beside the river where you'll see 400- to 500-million-year-old corals, snails and ancient squid fossils embedded in the limestone.



Explore Bonnechere Caves in Eganville.

Bonnechere Caves
800-469-2283, 613-628-CAVE
www.bonnecherecaves.com

OUTDOOR FUN

River rafting

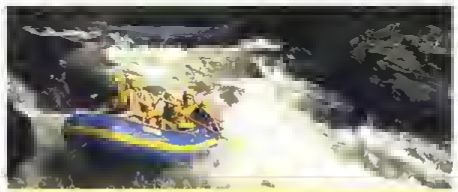
For wild times on the most popular whitewater runs in Ontario, head for the Ottawa River south of Pembroke, where at least three companies offer family rafting tours as well as adult trips. Children generally need to weigh about 30 kg.

Families with young children will enjoy the gentler action on OWL's two-hour family float tours along a 5-km stretch of the Madawaska River in the wilderness east of Algonquin Park. A guide does all the paddling, with stops along the way to jump in and swim with the current. Watch for wildlife; you may see a mink swim by or a blue heron standing on the shore.

River Run
800-267-8504
www.riverrunners.com

Wilderness Tours
800-267-9166
www.wildernesstours.com

OWL Rafting
800-461-7238, 613-646-2263
www.owl-rafting.com



The Ottawa River is home to numerous whitewater rafting tours.

Mazed and confused

By late August, the corn should be tall enough that kids can romp along the 3,000 metres of pathways through the corn maze at Haggerty Farms, located north of Belleville and open on weekends and holiday Mondays.

Younger children and their parents prefer the smaller hay bale maze and the variety of friendly animals over in Farmer Jim's barnyard. Baby calves and mini-goats (born the size of a cat) live, appropriately, in a mini-barn.

Older kids will be more interested in the moonlight maze walk, particularly spectacular on weekends around the full moon. The farm also has a snack bar inside the historic West Huntingdon cheese factory.

613-395-5115
www.haggertyfarms.com

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CHRYSLER

INSPIRATION COMES STANDARD

Northern highlights

Explore the bowels of the earth on an underground mine tour, paddle a voyageur canoe and enjoy the scenery on one of Ontario's famed northern trains.



Science North in Sudbury has a wealth of attractions to inform and entertain everyone in the family

SCIENCE ADVENTURE

From underground to outer space

At Timmins Underground Gold Mine, kids put on real mining gear—helmets, coveralls and boots—for a trip into an old mine where even the equipment sounds exciting jack leg drill, muck machine and slusher. Displays of drilling and blasting, plus an underground rail ride, keep kids well entertained. Afterwards they can sort through a pile of quartz in search of real gold.

Science North, Sudbury's star attraction, has enough to keep kids busy all day. They can operate real mining equipment in the Dynamic Earth underground cavern exhibit, then take a virtual voyage to save Planet Earth from a rogue comet. The theme continues at the IMAX theatre for a cinematic visit to the international space station.

Preschoolers will squeal with glee at the sight of live turtles and flying squirrels in the northern ecosystem exhibit while older kids will want to build battling Lego robots, or manoeuvre a model submarine in a tank of water. Add a 3-D movie and a gallery of live butterflies and you've got enough activities to please even the most energetic youngsters.

A short distance away, by boardwalk, Ramsey Lake and Bell Park are popular for a summer stroll, swim or picnic.

Timmins Underground Gold Mine
800-387-8466, 705-360-8500,
www.timminsgoldminetour.com

Science North
800-461-4898, 705 522 3701
www.sciencenorth on.ca

RAIL EXCURSIONS

Make tracks

Old and young alike will love the dramatic scenery north of Sault Ste. Marie, easily enjoyed on Algoma Central Railway's Agawa Canyon Tour Train. Towering railway trestles offer vistas of wilderness lakes and forests en route to Agawa Canyon Park where a two-hour stopover leaves time for a hike and a picnic. You'll get the best view—and ride in style—in one of the new first-class dome cars. Wear comfy shoes to explore the park.

The 300-km Polar Bear Express train trip to the shores of James Bay makes the northern frontier accessible. Kids enjoy a sing-along on the way north from Cochrane to the shores of James Bay. You won't see any polar bears, but will hear plenty of stories about life in the North.

Arriving at Moosonee, take one of the Two Bay Tours excursions on a freighter canoe to look for fossils on an island in the Moose River, or visit the Cree cultural centre to learn about traditional life.

Algoma Central Railway/
Agawa Canyon Tour Train
800-242-9287
www.agawacanyontourtrain.com

The Polar Bear Express
800 268-9281
www.polarbearexpress ca



Paddle a replica voyageur canoe at Fort William in Thunder Bay

HISTORICAL PARK

Frontier fur

Experience life on the fur trade frontier at Thunder Bay's Fort William Historical Park, reconstructed to portray life in 1815 when millions of beaver pelts were shipped to Europe to be fashioned into top hats. Your kids won't want to miss the traditional Ojibway and Metis encampment or the 20-minute paddling trips in replica 24-foot voyageur canoes on the Kaministiquia River. During the annual Rendezvous (July 16 to 18), see hundreds of fur trade re-enactors arrive in a canoe brigade, while being saluted by muskets and cannon.

Fort William Historical Park
807-473-2344
www.oldfortwilliam on.ca

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SPORTSWORLD
100 Sportsworld Drive, Kitchener, Ontario
(519) 653-4442
www.sportsworld.on.ca
See our ad pg.12
140045
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MarineLand
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5200 Robinson Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario
(905) 356 2651 www.skylon.com
Skylon Tower
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*2004 prices subject to change
Confederation Park, Centennial Parkway (Highway 20) at the QEW, Hamilton, ON
Phone: 1-866-319-4722 or 1-800-555-8775 or 905 561 2792
Website: www.conservationhamilton.ca
RM

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Canadian Warplane Heritage
9280 Airport Road, Hamilton International Airport, Mount Hope, Ontario, Canada.
905-57-WEST (579-3278) or 1-877-FLY-CWH (359-3278) 24-hr. info. www.warplane.com
RM

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SAVE UP TO $4.00 ON ADMISSION
This coupon entitles you and up to 5 family members to save $1.00 off your regular admission purchased. Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – last ticket sold at 4:00 p.m. Coupon has no cash value and cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid for Groups. Offer expires March 31, 2005. PLU 666
2206 Kenneth Rd, Cambridge, ON
519.653.1234 www.wingsofparadise.com
Located off Hwy. 24 between Cambridge & Guelph
RM

Buy 1 Admission, Get 1 Free
of equal or lesser value
A 60 acre living history museum, a creative life sights and sounds of an exciting era on Canadian history. Open daily May 1 to Labour Day then 1 p.m. weekdays until December 23
No cash value. Only one coupon/discount/promotional offer of any kind per person accepted. Please present coupon prior to purchase.
Valid May 1 – December 23, 2004
Regular admission only. Adult $7.50, Senior/Student $4, Child $3, Family $15.
OOON HERITAGE CROSSROADS
Homer Watson Blvd., Kitchener, Ontario 1519/748 1914
RM

$3 OFF REGULAR PARK ADMISSION!!!
Hundreds of Animals • Splash Pad
Accessible In-Park Trolley • Steel Sculptures
Interactive Animal Appearances
Kite-flying • Fishing • Paddleboats
Guided Educational Tours
Shaded Picnic Areas • Restaurant
10 Mins from The Falls • QEW to Sodom Road
2821 Stevensville Road • Stevensville • ON
1.866.367.9669 • www.zoo2.ca
RM
NO CASH VALUE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. EXPIRES OCT 11/04

1-800-ONTARIO

$20 OFF ANY ADVENTURE PACKAGE

Wheels! the place to be

Chatham, Ontario 1-800-265-5267 www.wheelsinn.com

BINGEMANS

Serving You In Grand Style

425 Bingemans Centre Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2B 3X7
Tel. 519-744-1555 • 1-800-667-0833 • Fax 519-744-1985
www.bingemans.com
Not valid with any other special or offer. No cash value
Expires September 6, 2004

NIAGARA FALLS AVIARY

BIRDS of Prey

905-356-8888 1-866-994-0090
5651 River Rd., Niagara Falls
One Block From the Falls
www.niagarafallsaviary.com

$2.00 OFF
Save $2 off each Adult or Child admission for up to 6 people - total possible savings - $12!
Features
Tropical Rainforest
40 ft. Waterfall
Event & Party Facilities
Open Year Round

$4 OFF A Power Passport All Day Pass

SPORTSWORLD KITCHENER, ONTARIO

This coupon entitles you and three friends or family members to save up to $16. Power Passports are available June, July and August, 2004 weather permitting. This coupon cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other discount or offer other than stated above. Not valid on holidays.

SPORTSWORLD
100 Sportsworld Drive, Kitchener Ontario
(519) 653-4442
www.sportsworld.on.ca

2

140045

See our ad pg. 12

$2 OFF ADULT OBSERVATION FOR UP TO 6 ADULTS

This coupon has no cash value
May not be combined with any other offer
Expires March 21, 2005

Skylon Tower
5200 Robinson Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario
(905) 356-2651 www.skylon.com

SAVE UP TO $18

$3 OFF

Limit 6 guests per coupon. Not valid with any other offer. With this coupon save $3 off Fun Card. Redeemable only at time of ticket purchase. Expires October 10, 2004

Adult_____ Child_____

Marineland
7657 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6X8 (905) 356-9565

MarineLand

$2.50 Off All Day Pass

This coupon entitles you and three friends or family members to save up to $10 at Wild Waterworks. This coupon is valid any day from June 5 - Sept. 6, 2004 (weather permitting). Regular General Admission $14.25*. Regular Child (4-10) $9.25*. This coupon has no cash value and may not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of ticket purchase. *2004 prices subject to change.

Confederation Park, Centennial Parkway (Highway 20) at the QEW, Hamilton, ON
Phone 1-888-319-4722 or 1-800-555-2775 or 905-561-2292
Website www.conservationhamilton.ca

*Save Up to $12.00. Valid for $2.00 off one regular admission. Offer valid to a maximum of six (6) paying persons per vehicle. Only one coupon/discount/promotional offer of any kind per family vehicle accepted. No cash value. Not valid for groups. Please present coupon prior to purchase. Valid April 24 - October 11, 2004.

www.lionsafari.com

African Lion Safari, 1386 Cooper Road, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada N1R 5S2
Located on Safari Road, between Hwy #6 & #8, north of Hamilton
1 (800)-461-WILD (9453) (519) 623-2620
email. admin@lionsafari.com

Wings of Paradise
BUTTERFLY CONSERVATORY

SAVE UP TO **$4.00** ON ADMISSION

This coupon entitles you and up to 5 family members to save $1.00 off each regular admission purchased. Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Not valid on child or adult rates. Coupon has no cash value and cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid for Groups. Offer expires March 31, 2005. PLU 4068

2008 Kossuth Rd, Cambridge ON
519.653.1234 www.wingsofparadise.com
Located off Hwy. 24 between Cambridge & Guelph

Buy 1 Admission Get 1 Free
(of equal or lesser value)

Over 40 Vintage Aircraft Indoors • Flight Simulators
Aircraft Rides • Interactive Displays • Gift Shop • Restaurant

Coupon has no cash value and may not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of ticket purchase. Expires December 31, 2004

Canadian Warplane Heritage
9280 Airport Road, Hamilton International Airport, Mount Hope, Ontario, Canada.
905-57-WETLY (679-3259) or 1-877-FIREFLY (347-3259) 24-hr. info. www.warplane.com

$3 OFF REGULAR PARK ADMISSION!!!

Hundreds of Animals • Splash Pad
Accessible In-Park Trolley • Steel Sculptures
Interactive Animal Appearances
Kite-flying • Fishing • Paddleboats
Guided Educational Tours
Shaded Picnic Areas • Restaurant
1 1/2 Mins from The Falls • QEW to Sedom Road

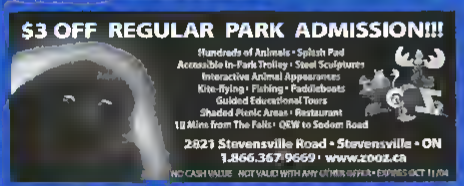
2823 Stevensville Road • Stevensville • ON
1.866.367.9669 • www.zooz.ca
NO CASH VALUE NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER • EXPIRES OCT 11/04

Buy 1 Admission, Get 1 Free
of equal or lesser value

A 90 acre living history museum re-creating the sights and sounds of an amazing era in Canadian history. Open daily May 11 to Labour Day then open weekdays until December 23.

No cash value. Only one coupon/discount/promotional offer of any kind per person accepted. Please present coupon prior to purchase.
Valid May 1 – December 23, 2004
Regular admission only. Adult $8, Senior/Student $6, Child $5, Family $15.

DOON HERITAGE CROSSROADS
Homer Watson Blvd., Kitchener, Ontario (519)748-1914
www.region.waterloo.on.ca







2 for 1 ADMISSION

Redeem this coupon Monday through Friday at the
Welland Canals Centre,
St. Catharines Museum

For more information, please call 1-800-305-5134
Lock 3 1932 Welland Canals Pkwy., St. Catharines ON, L2R 7C2

PLUS! Present this coupon upon registration at the Comfort Inn, St. Catharines and get 15% OFF your stay

PLEASE SEE THE REVERSE OF THIS COUPON • OFFER EXPIRES 24/12/04

KIDS FREE Free Admission for Children 12 years & under with regular Adult admission (up to 2 children per paying Adult).

36 acres of family fun, 160 Miniatures, kid's playground, splashpads & waterslide, Par Pet™ Valley Wagon Ride, Summer & Winter Entertainment, mini-putt golf, pedal carts, NEW Troutrail and the Jellyfish room. "Halloween Spooky Fun Nights" (mid-Oct to 30th) "Festival of Lights" mid-November/04 – January 2/05.

Open April 9th, 2004 - January 2nd, 2005
CULLEN GARDENS & MINIATURE VILLAGE
300 Taunton Road West, Whitby, Ontario
(905) 686-1670 Toll-Free: 800-461-1021

CULLEN GARDENS THE FAMILY FUN PARK

Coupon not valid for groups. No cash value. Not valid during Halloween Spooky Fun Nights. Cannot be combined with any other offer. See our ad page 34

COUPON EXPIRES DEC. 30, 2004
www.cullengardens.com

THE PERFECT GETAWAY.ca

GUIDED ATV TOURS

ATV Guided Tours

$20 Off ATV Tours

ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED • ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES AVAILABLE
Toll Free: (866) 771-2184 or www.ThePerfectGetaway.ca

You'll be amazed at how much there is to do at Ontario Place!

Play All Day **Save $30**

ontario place

$5 FREE PLAY
CAN BE USED ON ITS OWN OR WITH ANY PLAYCARD PURCHASED

PLAYDIUM. THE ULTIMATE PLACE TO PLAY

Putting edge

SAVE up to $8

On Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf Green Fees

Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf

ENJOY **2 FOR 1 ADMISSION***

* SEE REVERSE OF THIS COUPON FOR DETAILS.

Wave

INDOOR WAVE POOL WITH 4 FOOT WAVES!
160 FOOT TWISTING WATERSLIDE!
OPEN YEAR ROUND FOR LEISURE AND WAVE SWIM

25% OFF * Regular admission to Historic Fort York, Mackenzie House or Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens

FORT YORK	MACKENZIE HOUSE	SPADINA MUSEUM
100 Garrison Road	82 Bond Street	285 Spadina Road
416-392-6907	416-392-6915	416-392-6910

* Discount allowable on maximum of 2 regular admissions. Not valid with other offers or special event pricing. Museum hours may impact ability to perform. Offer valid until March 31, 2005

toronto

Toronto Culture

Yogi Bear's JELLYSTONE PARK CAMP-RESORT

SAVE $10.00 OFF CAMPING
at Toronto & Niagara Falls
Where You Camp With Friends!®

TM & © Hanna-Barbera.

Please see details on back.

Medieval Times DINNER & TOURNAMENT

EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO
416-260-1234 or
1-888-WE JOUST
www.medievaltimes.com

Save up to $30.00
See back for details.

Save $2.00

This coupon is redeemable for $2.00 off one adult Royal Ontario Museum admission. Offer not valid on tickets already purchased or on ROM Friday nights and may not be combined with any other discount. Coupon has no cash value. Limit: one per admission.

Offer Expires March 31/05

See our ad pg. 23

Coupon redeemable at the Royal Ontario Museum only

ROM
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Royal Ontario Museum • Toronto, Ontario
Bloor St. W. at Avenue Road • Museum Subway Stop
416 586 8000 • www.rom.on.ca

$10 off and FREE 4" x 6" Photo

When you use this coupon to experience our breathtaking HELICOPTER RIDE
416-203-3280

TORONTO HELICOPTER
www.HeliTours.ca

Check out our new web site www.attractionsontario.ca for more money saving coupons!

KIDS FREE Free Admission for Children 12 years & under with regular Adult admission (up to 2 children per paying Adult)

36 acres of family fun, 160 Miniatures, kid's playground, splashpark & waterslide, Pat Pat Valley Wagon Ride, Summer & Winter Entertainment, golf, pedal carts, NEW: Trawfest and Blacklight zoom, "Halloween Spooky Fun Nights" (mid-Oct to 30th), Festival of Lights" mid-November/04 – January 2/05.

Open April 9th 2004 - January 2nd, 2005

CULLEN GARDENS & MINIATURE VILLAGE
300 Taunton Road West, Whitby Ontario
(905) 686-1600 Toll-Free: 800-461-1021

CULLEN GARDENS AND FAMILY FUN PARK

Coupon not valid for groups, the cash value. Not valid during Halloween Spooky Fun Nights. Cannot be combined with any other offer. See our ad page 34

COUPON EXPIRES DEC. 30 2004
www.cullengardens.com



15% OFF YOUR STAY

Present this coupon, Monday through Friday at the Comfort Inn St. Catharines

For more information, please call 1-800 359-7234
2 Dunlop Drive, St. Catharines, ON L2R 1A2

PLUS! Redeem this coupon for a 2 FOR 1 admission to the Welland Canals Centre St. Catharines Museum

BLACKOUT DATES MAY APPLY TO THIS COUPON – OFFER EXPIRES DEC 31/04

ontario place

Info: 416-314-9900
1-866-ONE-4-FUN (outside GTA)
www.ontarioplace.com

An Agency of the Government of Ontario.

Coupon valid for $5 off on Ontario Place Play All Day Pass* up to a maximum of six $5 discounts per coupon. Valid during the 2004 operating season. Not valid for CNE rides and attractions. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers or discount Age/height/time restrictions apply to all attractions

2004010

Present this coupon for a $20.00 discount on ATV guided tour. Limit 1 per coupon per customer. Coupon is valid on one occasion only. May not be used in conjunction with any other package or promotional offer. No cash value. Mechanical reproductions will not be accepted. Offer valid through October 01, 2004.

$20 Off ATV Tours ATV Guided Tours

ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED • ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Toll Free: (866) 771-2184 or www.ThePerfectGetaway.ca

The Ultimate Entertainment Experience

Save up to $8. Coupon valid for $2 off Putting Edge green fee up to a maximum of 4 green fees per coupon. Not valid on child or matinee rates.

9 Locations In Ontario

Barrie Burlington Mississauga Oakville Ottawa
Richmond Hill St. Catharines Vaughan Whitby

www.puttingedge.com

Expires December 31, 2004. Not valid in conjunction with any other offers. No cash value

Limit of one coupon per customer per day. May not be used in conjunction with any other promotional offers. No cash value. Offer expires December 31, 2004

Playdium Mississauga 99 Rathburn Road West, Mississauga, ON L5B 4C1
T 905.273.9000 F 905.273.4222 www.playdium.com

000000795870

PLAYDIUM
THE ULTIMATE PLAY PLACE

25% OFF

* Regular admission to Historic Fort York, Mackenzie House or Spadina Museum. Historic House & Gardens

FORT YORK	MACKENZIE HOUSE	SPADINA MUSEUM
100 Garrison Road	82 Bond Street	285 Spadina Road
416-392-6907	416-392-6915	416-392-6910
fortyork@toronto.ca	mackenzie@toronto.ca	spadina@toronto.ca

Discount available on maximum of 2 regular admissions per visit to the offers or special event pricing. Museum entry only, pass not to confirm. Offer valid until March 31, 2005

Toronto Culture

CALL 905-508-WAVE (9283) FOR SWIM SCHEDULE.

- BUY ONE ADMISSION AND RECEIVE ONE ADMISSION OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE FREE.
- OFFER EXPIRES MARCH 31, 2005.
- NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER SPECIAL OR OFFER.



THE WAVE POOL IS LOCATED AT 5 HOWARD ROAD, RICHMOND HILL @ MAJOR MACKENZIE AND YONGE

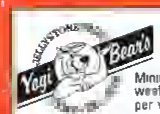
$5.00 Off Adults
$3.00 Off Children (12 and under)

Save $5.00 Off Adults and $3.00 Off Children on the regular priced dinner and show admission. Not valid on Saturday evening shows, Valentines Day, Mothers Day, New Years Eve or with any other discounted admission. Maximum 6 persons per coupon. Valid at Toronto castle only.

Expires Feb. 28, 2005

AP04

Medieval Times



SAVE $10.00 OFF CAMPING at Toronto & Niagara Falls

Minimum 2 night stay. May be used on holiday long weekends with minimum 3 night stay. One coupon per visit. This coupon may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Valid for 2004 in-season (only at the locations listed above). Reservations recommended. Subject to availability. Coupon must be presented at time of check in.

The Helicopter Company Inc.

Discount is only valid with the purchase of one regularly priced city tour. Not valid for chartered groups. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer or promotion. Limited seating. Subject to availability. Advanced reservation required. Cancellation policy in effect. Coupon must be mentioned when making reservation. No cash value. www.HeliTours.ca Expiry June 30, 2005

TORONTO HELICOPTER
www.HeliTours.ca

Toronto City Centre Airport
at the foot of Bathurst St.
Toronto Ontario M5V 1A1
1-888-445-8542

Save $2.00

This coupon is redeemable for $2.00 off one adult Royal Ontario Museum admission. Offer not valid on tickets already purchased. Open 10AM Friday nights and may not be combined with any other discount. Coupon has no cash value. Limit one per admission.

Offer Expires March 31/05

See our ad pg 23

Coupon redeemable at the Royal Ontario Museum only

ROM
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Royal Ontario Museum • Toronto, Ontario
Bloor St. W. at Avenue Road • Museum Subway Stop
416-586-8000 • www.rom.on.ca

Check out our new web site www.attractionsontario.ca for more money saving coupons!

$5 off Family Admission

Includes 2 or 2 adults and up to 3 children under 18. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Non transferable and has no cash value. Until December 31, 2004

McMichael

10365 Islington Ave, Kleinburg ON (905) 833-1121 www.mcmichael.com

RM

THE R.S. McLAUGHLIN ESTATE

PARKWOOD

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 31

905-433-4311 www.parkwoodestate.com

$2 Off Adult Admission

RM



Join Zoboomafoo and his celebrity animal friends in our AnimaTheatre show.

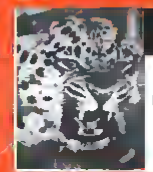
$2.00 OFF children's admission w/purchase of regular adult admission

Bowmanville Zoo
340 King St., East, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K5
905.623.5855 • E-mail bzpaso@aol.com
Web: www.bowmanvillezoo.com

BOWMANVILLE ZOO

Expires October, 2004. Not valid with other offers or group rates. Please call ahead for show schedules. See ad on page 36

RM



JUNGLE CAT WORLD ZOO

Explore a World of Endangered Animals

$ 2.- Off regular Admission

This coupon has no cash value. Not valid with other discount offers.

Experience the Feast of the Beasts at 1:30

Just 45 Min. east of Toronto. HWY 401
Exit 438 north 11 km on HWY 35/115
(905) 983-5016
www.junglecatworld.com
See our ad on pg 38

RM

20% Off Regular Admission w/ 10% off Combination Ticket

Redeem this coupon at the Box Office for 20% off Ontario Science Centre admission or 10% off a combination ticket which includes an IMAX® film. Maximum four redemptions per coupon. Not valid March 12 20, 2005 or with any other offers, groups or school discounts. Coupon expires March 31, 2005. Account #102517

770 Don Mills Dr. (at Eglinton Ave. East)
Toronto. Call 416 696 3127 or visit
www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca
Reservations on Agincies 416-696-3147

RM
Ontario Science Centre

Kids Free!!

Experience an entertaining celebration of the best of hockey! With the purchase of one paid general admission, you receive free admission for one child (13 & under) with presentation of this coupon. (Reg. value of youth is $8.00.) Offer not value with any other discounts. Expires April 30, 2005

Hockey Hall of Fame
Yonge & Front Streets, BCE Place
Toronto, Ontario
416 360-7765

www.HHOF.com RM

BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE

2-for-1 Admission Offer

Receive one free admission with the purchase of a second (of equal or greater value)

- Valid only on individual general admission rates
- May not be used in combination with any other offer
- Not redeemable for cash
- Coupon expires December 31, 2004



RM www.blackcreek.ca

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

2004 KIDS VOUCHER

EXCHANGE AT CNE TICKET BOOTH

FOR ONE KIDS ADMISSION TICKET

AUG 20 - SEPT 6, 2004

RM

MURDER! see other side!

$10.00 off per couple with this coupon

(416) 466-7469
or 1-800-NOT-DEAD (668-3323)
RM www.MysteriouslyYours.com

Come and join the fun!

Mysteriously yours... Dinner Theatre

2026 Yonge Street, Toronto
(South of Eglinton Ave.)

CASA LOMA

$2.00 OFF* One Regular Adult Admission
or
$1.00 OFF* One Regular Youth, Child or Senior Admission

*Not to be used in conjunction with other discount offers. No cash value. Not valid during November Solar Plum Fair. Valid until April 30th, 2005. Closed Christmas and New Years Day.

Open Daily from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Last Admission 4:00 p.m. (416) 923-1171
1 Austin Terrace, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1X8 www.casaloma.org DAO

RM

SAVE UP TO $12* on Family Fun all season long

Bring this coupon to Centreville or the Ward's Island ferry

Park open daily from May 22 to September 6 and all weekends in May and September. For more information, call Centreville's Summer Fun Line at 416.203.0405. *Coupon valid for $2 off each all-day ride pass purchased up to a maximum of six passes. Coupon not valid on holidays or with any other discount offer. Tax not included. Valid during each 2004 season.

CENTREVILLE AMUSEMENT PARK TORONTO ISLANDS
www.centreisland.ca



2004 SEASON HOURS
Open mid-June to Labour Day
September 11 & 12 weekend

Santa's Village

And your kids thought Christmas was fun!

RM

Call Us (705) 645-2512
info@santasvillage.ca
www.SantasVillage.ca

THE R.S. McLAUGHLIN ESTATE
PARKWOOD
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
270 Simcoe St N Oshawa
905-433-4311
www.parkwoodestate.com

This coupon is redeemable for $2.00 off one adult admission and must be presented at time of ticket purchase. No cash value. May not be combined with any other offer or special event. Limit of one coupon per admission. Mechanical reproductions will not be accepted. Offer valid through December 31 2004

$5 off Family Admission
Includes 1 or 2 adults and up to 3 children under 18. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Non-transferable and has no cash value. Until December 31, 2004
McMichael
10365 Islington Ave, Kleinburg, ON (905) 893 1121 www.mcmichael.com

JUNGLE CAT WORLD ZOO
Explore a World of Endangered Animals
$2.- Off regular Admission
This coupon has no cash value. Not valid with other discount offers.
Experience the Feast of the Beasts at 1:30
Just 45 Min. east of Toronto HWY 401
Exit 436 north 11 km on HWY 35/115
(905) 983-5016
www.junglecatworld.com
See our ad on pg 38

Toronto Zoo and Friends
Join Zobumafoo and his celebrity animal friends in our AnimaTheatre show.
$2.00 OFF each adult or senior admission w/purchase of regular adult admission
Bowmanville Zoo
340 King St East, Bowmanville ON L1C 3K5
905 623 5655 • E-mail bzpzoo@aol.com
Web: www.bowmanvillezoo.com
Expires October 2004. Not valid with other offers or group rates. Please call ahead for show schedules. See ad on page 36.
BOWMANVILLE ZOO

Kids Free!!
Experience an entertaining celebration of the best of hockey! With the purchase of one paid general admission, you receive free admission for one child (13 & under) with presentation of this coupon. (Reg. value of youth is $8.00.) Offer not valid with any other discounts. Expires April 30, 2005
Hockey Hall of Fame
Yonge & Front Streets BCE Place
Toronto, Ontario
416-360-7765
www.hhof.com

20% off Regular Admission or 10% off Combination Ticket
Redeem this coupon at the Box Office for 20% off Ontario Science Centre admission or 10% off a combination ticket which includes an IMAX® film. Maximum four redemptions per coupon. Not valid March 12-20, 2005 or with any other offers, group or school discounts. Coupon expires March 31, 2005. Account #102517
770 Don Mills Rd. (at Eglinton Ave. East)
Toronto. Call 416-696-3127 or visit
www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca
Ontario Science Centre

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION
Exchange this voucher at any CNE Ticket Booth for one CNE 2004 Kids Admission Ticket. Entitles one child (13 and under) to one free grounds admission during the 2004 CNE.
Midway not included. Not redeemable for cash.
For CNE info visit www.TheEx.com
LET'S GO TO THE EX

BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE
2-for-1 Admission Offer
Receive one free admission with the purchase of a second (of equal or greater value)
• Valid only on individual general admission rates
• May not be used in combination with any other offer
• Not redeemable for cash
• Coupon expires December 31, 2004
www.blackcreek.ca

CASA LOMA
$2.00 OFF* One Regular Adult Admission
$1.00 OFF* One Regular Youth, Child or Senior Admission
*Not to be used in conjunction with other discount offers. No cash value. Not valid during November Sugar Plum Fair. Valid until April 30th 2005. Closed Christmas and New Years Day.
Open Daily from 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. Last Admission 4:00 p.m. (416) 923-1171
1 Austin Terrace, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1X8 www.casaloma.org
DAO

MURDER! see other side!
$10.00 off per couple with this coupon
Come and join the fun!
Subject to limited availability of discounted seats. NOT valid in December. Must specify Attractions Ontario Coupon at time of reservation.
See our ad and visit our web site AO2004
Mysteriously Yours... Dinner Theatre
2086 Yonge Street, Toronto (South of Eglinton Ave.)

Save Up to $24.00*
Sportsland Coupon
*Present this coupon at the Activity Centre Ticket Booth at SportsLand and each member in your party (maximum 6) will receive $2 off the regular price of the 10 ticket "Do-It-All-Pass"
Santa's Village Coupon
*Present this coupon at the front gate of SANTA'S VILLAGE and each member in your party (maximum 6) will receive $2 off the regular price of the "Play-All-Day-Passport"
Not valid between July 19 to August 15, 2004. Coupon(s) cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. No cash value. Offer expires September 05, 2004

SAVE up to $12* on Family Fun
Bring this coupon to Centreville to receive the one day admission below!
Park open daily from May 22 to September 6 and all weekends in May and September. For more information, call Centreville's Summer Fun Line at 416-203-0405. *Coupon valid for $2 off each adult, child, pass purchased up to 6 maximum of 6 x passes. Coupon not valid on holidays or with any other discount offer. Tax not included. Valid during only the 2004 season.
CENTREVILLE AMUSEMENT PARK TORONTO ISLANDS
www.centreisland.ca

Check out our new web site www attractionsontario ca for more money saving coupons!

FREE
This coupon is worth $3.00
You may use it towards the purchase of absolutely anything you choose.
RICH HILL CANDLES & GIFTS
(Limit 1 coupon per family per day)
ROBERT DOLLAR DRIVE BRACEBRIDGE
705 645 8600
RM

DISCOVERY HARBOUR
Penetanguishene, Ontario
2-for-1 Coupon!
see back for details
RM
www.discoveryharbour.on.ca (705) 549-8064

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
Midland, Ontario Tel: (705) 526-7838
2-for-1 Coupon!
Present this coupon and admit two adults for the regular price of one to Sainte Marie among the Hurons the 17th-century French Jesuit mission to the Huron people. (Valid in 2004 season May 6 to October 17. No cash value.)
Ontario
RM
www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca

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VICTORIA DAY HORROR

In 1881, some 200 people perished just a few metres from shore

IT WAS AROUND suppertime on a sunny Victoria Day, May 24, 1881, when the overloaded paddlewheeler Victoria chugged up the Thames River from the popular Springbank Park ro the main dock in London, Ont., just six kilometres away But as the hundreds of day trippers approached home for their holiday meal, the ship's hull scraped a giant boulder on the river bottom, creating a 60 cm gash. Already riding low because of her heavy load, the river steamer settled even deeper into the water But this didn't stop a group of rowdy teenagers on the lower deck from rushing side to side, rocking the shallow draft boat so severely her rails almost dipped into the river. They were singing the gospel song *One More River to Cross*. It was an overture to disaster

Earlier in the journey, 14 year-old John Burridge had accepted 10 cents for his assigned seat and moved to standing room status on the packed vessel, a transaction that later paid off in more than money. Others at least 182 of his fellow passengers, were less fortunate, their lives claimed by this little-known Canadian disaster that occurred less than a dozen metres from dry land

Sheer foolishness was, in part, to blame. Fearing the ship would capsize, Capt. Donald Rankin had ordered the raucous kids to calm down. They refused, jeering, "Get out your lifeboat." When warned again, they yelled, "Then we'll go down with her!" And when two racing sculls swept past, passengers on both levels rushed to get a look at them. The vessel dipped dangerously starboard, mere metres from the riverbank. Frightened, the passengers tried to counterbalance the ship by running to the opposite railing. The Victoria dipped even more dramatically to that side, flinging many passengers into the river. At that point, the boat's three quarter tonne boiler crashed through its engine room walls and slid across the slanted deck into the river. Along the way, it severed the steam pipes and the pillars supporting the upper deck, crushing and scalding several people. The heavy canvas roof of the collapsed upper deck dropped onto those floundering in the water



Hundreds were trapped like 'rats in a cage

As one survivor described it, hundreds were trapped "like rats in a cage."

Many were saved through pluck and heroism. James Perkins, who was travelling with his son, seized another nine-year old boy and swam the short distance ashore. Laying him on the bank, he said, "Thank God I've been able to rescue you." Alas, the child was not his—his own drowned. Another man dragged his wife under one arm, his daughter under the other and his granddaughter by gripping her dress between his teeth. He made it to shore, saving all three.

THIEVES stole from the bodies, as well as from the garments the rescuers had discarded before jumping in

Rescuers placed the retrieved bodies on the riverbank. The scene, reported the Toronto *Globe*, was "heart rending" with bodies laid out on the grass, "all in their holiday attire." But not everyone came to help. Thieves stole personal belongings from the bodies as well as from the garments the rescuers had discarded before jumping into the river. Some owners of hearses, cabs and wagons charged exorbitant rates. And, according to Ken McTaggart, author of *London's Darkest Hours*, a few even tucked invoices into the dead bodies that they delivered and left propped against the door of their homes.

The exact number of people aboard the Victoria that day is unknown. An inquest found the ship had been "dangerously overloaded." Capt. Rankin claimed no more than 400 people—the capacity load—were on board, but survivors put the number as high as 600. Rankin and ship manager George Parish were indicted for manslaughter, but a grand jury voted not to bring them to trial, citing too many contributing factors, including the unruly passengers.

Richard Burridge, grandnephew of the boy who sold his seat for 10 cents, still has a newspaper clipping of an interview his great-uncle gave 70 years after the disaster. In the article, John Burridge says that if the ship's final pitch had been to the right rather than to the left, hundreds might have been hurled to safety near dry land. "I had a seat, but somebody gave me 10 cents for it and I got an orange," he said. "If I had been seated, I would have been drowned. I just got my boots wet." M

WESTERN ARCHIVES, TALMAN REGIONAL COLLECTION



A river runs through it, but it's also a road: winter traffic on the Mackenzie

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

The Inuit communities of the Western Arctic live in isolation few in the south can imagine. So how do you even start to solve the problems, asks PAUL WELLS.

EVERYBODY in the Northwest Territories knows how you get from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk. You drive down a gentle sloping road from downtown Inuvik to the bank of the Mackenzie River. Then you make a hard right turn.

Onto the river.

From December to late April every year, the only land route between these two Arctic towns, both populated mostly by Inuit, doesn't cover land at all. It's a gently curving route along the river's hard frozen surface. The ice itself is the road.

Several weeks ago, a dozen senior bureaucrats from Ottawa and a visiting reporter rode along the river in a convoy of minivans. At times blowing snow made it impossible to see the next van in the group. When the wind fell, we could see the riverbanks, perhaps a kilometre distant on either side. But the ice road itself, a narrow strip of river top flooded and scraped clean by maintenance crews like an endless ribbon of municipal hockey rink, is barely two lanes wide. So when trucks headed in the opposite direction roared past, hauling supplies from the exploratory natural-gas drilling rigs that dot the area, there hardly seemed room for them and us on the same ice.

Two hours' drive out of Inuvik the vans passed the treeline, a final few gnarled ancient pine trees giving way to unbroken snowscape.

The Ottawa civil servants' host was the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the national organization that speaks for Canada's Inuit. The goal of the week-long visit was to give representatives of the federal government a chance to see how their policies work on ground almost unimaginably distant from the cozy assumptions of the capital's cubicle villages.

What they saw—what we saw, because I was tagging along with the government employees—were tiny communities living in isolation few in the south can imagine. Canada's Inuit region covers 40 per cent of the country's land area, from Aklavik at the western tip of the Northwest Territories to Kiknak in Labrador, and from Kuujjuaraapik on Quebec's Hudson Bay shore all the way up to the North Pole.

Since Nunavut was carved out as a separate territory in 1999, the Northwest Territories doesn't look like much on a map. (It's quite a bit more impressive when you're in the middle of it.) The area served by the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority is half the size of the new Northwest Territories. Even so, the area the authority serves is almost as big as Ontario from tip to tip. Its 1.5 million sq. km are inhabited by 10,000 Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Slavey people in 13 communities. Ten of those communities can be reached only by air.

The challenges up here can seem overwhelming. Inuit life expectancy is 10 years shorter than in southern Canada. The youth suicide rate is eight times higher. Tuberculosis rates are 17 times as high. Dropping out of school is far more common than getting a diploma.

Yet each time visitors from the south begin to think they've found an easy answer to life in Canada's Western Arctic, easy certainty melts away as surely as the ice road from Inuvik to Tuk melts every spring.

Take Inuvik. Its problems are, relatively speaking, those of a regional centre: transport hub, health care headquarters, a "big town" of 3,700 residents that other Western Arctic communities envy and resent.

At Inuvik's newly built hospital—in some ways a better-equipped facility than many in southern Canada—the biggest problem is attracting and retaining staff. Many doctors, teachers and other skilled employees from the south simply can't afford the cost of living. Rent for a simple one-bedroom apartment can be $1,400 a month. As a result, half of the hospital's employees have been on staff for less than two years.

This matters because the human and financial cost of medical inexperience can be

PHOTOGRAPH BY CATHIE ARCHIBOULD



formidable. A rookie doctor or nurse practitioner who's uncertain about treating a patient's condition will put him on the next plane to Edmonton at a cost of $15,000 or more. "A lot of people do get medevaced who don't need to be medevaced," said Nellie Cournoyea, a former N.W.T. premier who helped negotiate the Inuvialuit land-claim agreement in 1984. "It's to the benefit of the doubt, but it's not cheap."

A whole social safety net has sprung up to make life more bearable for patients from the North who find themselves rushed southward. In Edmonton we visited Largo Home, which offers comfort, friendly faces and Inuit dietary staples such as caribou meat and deep-fried bannock bread to visiting patients from the Arctic. Bill Davidson, the amiable transplanted Scotsman who opened Largo in 1987, works overtime to keep his patients comfortable while they're stuck in Edmonton. But he said every patient airlifted out of the Arctic is a financial and social strain that would be better avoided if possible.

If all you saw on a trip like ours was Inuvik, you might think housing was the cure to much of what ails the Western Arctic. Communicable diseases can't spread rapidly if you don't have families of a dozen or more sharing a tiny house. Bright kids would be less likely to drop out of school if they had a quiet room to study. And professionals from the south might stick around long enough to develop regional and cultural savvy if their rent didn't threaten to bankrupt them.

Then you drive up the road to Tuktoyaktuk and you run into another set of assumptions altogether.

In Tuk, it's about that ice road. It's picturesque enough, but when it melts away it takes away easy access to the rest of the continent—and to ready supplies of fruits, vegetables and milk. Grocery costs skyrocket. (This came as news to one of the visiting Ottawa bureaucrats. Her department has been monitoring Tuk's food costs—in midwinter, when the ice road ensures prices will temporarily be at their lowest.)

EACH time a visitor begins to think he's found an easy answer, a new set of problems challenges his assumptions

In a meeting with the visiting civil servants, the members of Tuk's hamlet council pleaded for the feds to build an all-weather road to Inuvik—150 km at $1 million per kilometre. The road would support oil and gas exploration that, if it ever pays off with a major exploitable reservoir of gas that can be pumped into the Mackenzie Delta pipeline, will bring the payday the region has wanted for decades. (By some estimates, Canada's Arctic natural gas resource totals 175 trillion cubic feet, about a third of Canada's total estimated reserves of 594 trillion cubic feet.)

The road would allow Tuk to relocate part of its overcrowded cemetery. The road would provide access to a gravel quarry so the dangerously eroding Beaufort Sea shoreline could be shored up.





The road, a couple of the savvier travelling bureaucrats told me later, would also be a bonanza for the local construction company, which is unusually well-represented on Tuk's city council.

Anyone tempted to too much cynicism over that link, however, would be well advised to look around Tuktoyaktuk. Something has to give; the little hamlet is in serious difficulty. At Mangilaluk School, the principal, Allan Pitcher—like a disproportionate number of the North's transplanted southerners, a Newfoundlander—rattled off a dismaying list of problems. "I'm expecting a real bad fire inspector's report," Pitcher told us. "There's just no storage space here." Attendance, he said, is not just "atrocious," it's "totally, frankly puzzling: you could have a student not show up for two, three months and then show up for a few days."

If all you saw was Inuvik, you might think housing is the cure for everything

Territorial budget cuts threaten to make more trouble for a school that's already in precarious shape. Pitcher said. Of his 20 teachers, he expects two to be cut next year. One is the shop teacher, in a school where vocational training should be expanded, not cut. Funding for the school breakfast program ran out in January.

Maybe the problems facing these communities are simply insurmountable, I thought. Then we squeezed into two tiny twin prop airplanes and flew still farther north to Holman. Again, the quick assumptions didn't last long.

Holman is home to barely 400 residents and it's on an island in the Beaufort Sea, so there's no winter ice road to Inuvik or anywhere else. The cost of living is sky high: at the local grocery store a bad bunch of celery costs $6.09, a kilo of bananas $5.99. Yet there's a serenity to Holman, a sense of pride, that is the envy of other communities in the Western Arctic.

On the visitors' first night in town, the community threw a feast in the town hall. Trays of hot arctic char, turkey, caribou and barbecued muskox were brought out. A child had scrawled seasonal greetings in Inuinnaqtun, the regional Inuit dialect, on brightly coloured construction paper taped to one wall: "*Tataq huqniq ubluriaq*—welcome back *huqniq*, the sun." Community elders played drums and danced.

There are problems in Holman, too. One social-services employee described the shortages of manpower and funding in eloquent detail—then begged me not to quote her because she was afraid she'd be reassigned away from a town she loves.

Holman's unique assets are largely intangible: community spirit, a strictly enforced curfew for children, a school principal, Helen Kitekudlak, who comes from the community and radiates enthusiasm. (On a bulletin board at the school, the Inuinnaqtun Word of the Week was posted: *Quvnahuklutin*—be happy.)

Can Holman's assets be replicated in less fortunate communities? How can solutions be found to such a range of problems? Shortly after the visitors from the south returned from their Western Arctic tour, the federal government began trying to find a way.

On April 19, during a day-long summit meeting with Aboriginal leaders, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced the creation of an Inuit secretariat within the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. For the first time, a group of civil servants will work full time on the unique challenges facing the Inuit.

Jose Kusugak, the president of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, says he's relieved and excited by Martin's initiative. A secretariat within a government department won't change everything, of course. A process isn't a solution. But it's a start. M

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CATHERINE ARCHIBALD

A PRESCRIPTION FOR RUIN

Illicit trade in the painkiller OxyContin is bringing crime, addictionnd death—to the Atlantic provinces, writes CHARLIE GILLIS

THE 10-MINUTE TRIP from Donkin, N.S., to downtown Glace Bay is the kind even locals seldom tire of driving. The narrow, seaside highway winds through one of those postcard stretches of coastal Cape Breton, among churches and cemeteries and shoe box houses that seem to cling to the hills above the water. But when Morley Prendergast drove it during his last year of high school, he rarely noticed the sights. By then, the route had dimmed in his mind to a single, vital line—his sole link to the potent prescription painkiller OxyContin. "The only thing I cared about was getting into town and finding a dealer," recalls Prendergast, now 20. "Sometimes I'd have to pull over and throw up, because you get sick if you stop taking it. I'd just close the door and keep going. I needed it just to feel normal."

We're seated in the den of Prendergast's home in Donkin, where he's under two years' house arrest for holding up a convenience store, a crime committed so he could illicitly buy more OxyContin. He's a laughable excuse for a robber—soft featured and thin, with a kitten named Mia to keep him company during his sentence. His crime, he explains, marked the end of a descent into addiction that started in Grade 11, when he began snorting ground up tablets with schoolmates whenever he got the chance. "I could run into the washroom," he says, "crush up a pill on the back of the toilet and take it right there." Within months, the former honour-roll student was injecting the drug in liquid form, relying on OxyContin to get him through his weekend shifts at a theatre in Sydney, stealing cheques from his parents to pay for it. Then, two winters ago, having lost his job and exhausted all sources of cash, he made a clumsy attempt to rob the store. "There were times when I was spending $200 a day," says Prendergast, who's been clean since his arrest. "I spent all my savings, and I still owe my parents about $2,000. It takes over your whole life."







Prendergast (above), Glace Bay, N.S. (right), the drug was once heralded as a godsend

Or, in some cases, your whole town. Communities in Cape Breton and other pockets of Atlantic Canada have become veritable fonts of such tales in recent months, as a drug that has already wreaked havoc in rural areas of the eastern U.S. cuts a swath north. There are the two Glace Bay brothers who received last rites in one 12-hour period after overdosing last February. Or the 65-year-old grandmother in New Waterford, N.S., who was ordered to jail for selling OxyContin pills from her purse. She cried upon sentencing, but got a scolding from the judge for trying to make "easy money." Or the former Glace Bay coal miner who'd been legally prescribed OxyContin for eight years, yet went into shock during a routine hospital visit when staff administered his "usual" dosage. He survived, but it turned out he'd been selling off his pills all along, and had no tolerance for the drug.

All this, and a startling spike in fatality statistics. Cape Breton Regional Police attribute eight of 20 sudden deaths in the last 18 months directly to OxyContin abuse, while the number of prescription opiate addicts reporting to Sydney's detoxification unit has more than doubled in the last four years. Authorities in other Atlantic provinces report similar grief: a task force into the issue in Newfoundland and Labrador recently linked the painkiller to six overdose deaths there since 2001, while police in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island also report misuse of the drug. Anti-drug units are quickly retrenching, shifting their attention from old bogeymen like pot and liquor to one that lives in the cabinet of their local pharmacy. "We got used to seeing the town wino standing on the corner," says Sgt. Doug Lawrence of the Cape Breton regional police street crime and drug unit. "Now the concern is some guy selling pills."

THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED to happen to OxyContin, a drug once heralded as a godsend for cancer and palliative care patients. Developed by chemists at Connecticut-based Purdue Pharma L.P., the drug was designed to treat severe, long-term pain. Its genius was in a "controlled-release" system preventing all of the opiate in each pill—in this case, a morphine-like compound called oxycodone—from taking effect at once. That allowed its maker to pack more of the feel-good stuff into each tablet. Instead of giving patients dozens of pills per day, doctors could now prescribe one or two. Within five years, OxyContin accounted for 90 per cent of Purdue's U.S. prescription sales, raking in more

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SANDOR FIZLI



In Glace Bay last February, two brothers overdosed in the same 12 hour period

than US$1 billion for the company annually

Trouble was, abusers soon learned that grinding up the pills broke down that control mechanism, unleashing the drug's full force. Snorting OxyContin in powder form, or injecting it in a water-based solution, produces a euphoria rivalling that of heroin, say those who've tried it. "Three days of being on it, and you become addicted," one Cape Breton user told *Maclean's*. "It's a very, very powerful drug." And potential abusers didn't have to look very far for mixing instructions. Purdue was required by law to include a warning on its label reminding users that breaking, chewing or crushing the tablets "leads to rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of oxycodone."

For these reasons, and because of its widespread availability, OxyContin became known as "hillbilly heroin"—a high powered opiate readily obtainable in the woods of rural America. After its introduction in 1996, an illicit trade of OxyContin swept West Virginia and Virginia, along with parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania and rural Maine. Patients were caught double doctoring, then selling off their extra prescriptions, while pharmacies began reporting increased numbers of break-ins for OxyContin. In 2000 and 2001, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration linked 146 deaths to OxyContin abuse, lamenting the drug as a "significant problem for law enforcement authorities throughout the United States."

THE TRADE WAS slower to take root in Canada, but has proven no less insidious. On a recent evening in Glace Bay, Sgt. Lawrence and his partner, Const. Shaun McLean, cruise the city of 20,000 in an unmarked vehicle, pointing out some of the 14 homes where they believe OxyContin is for sale.

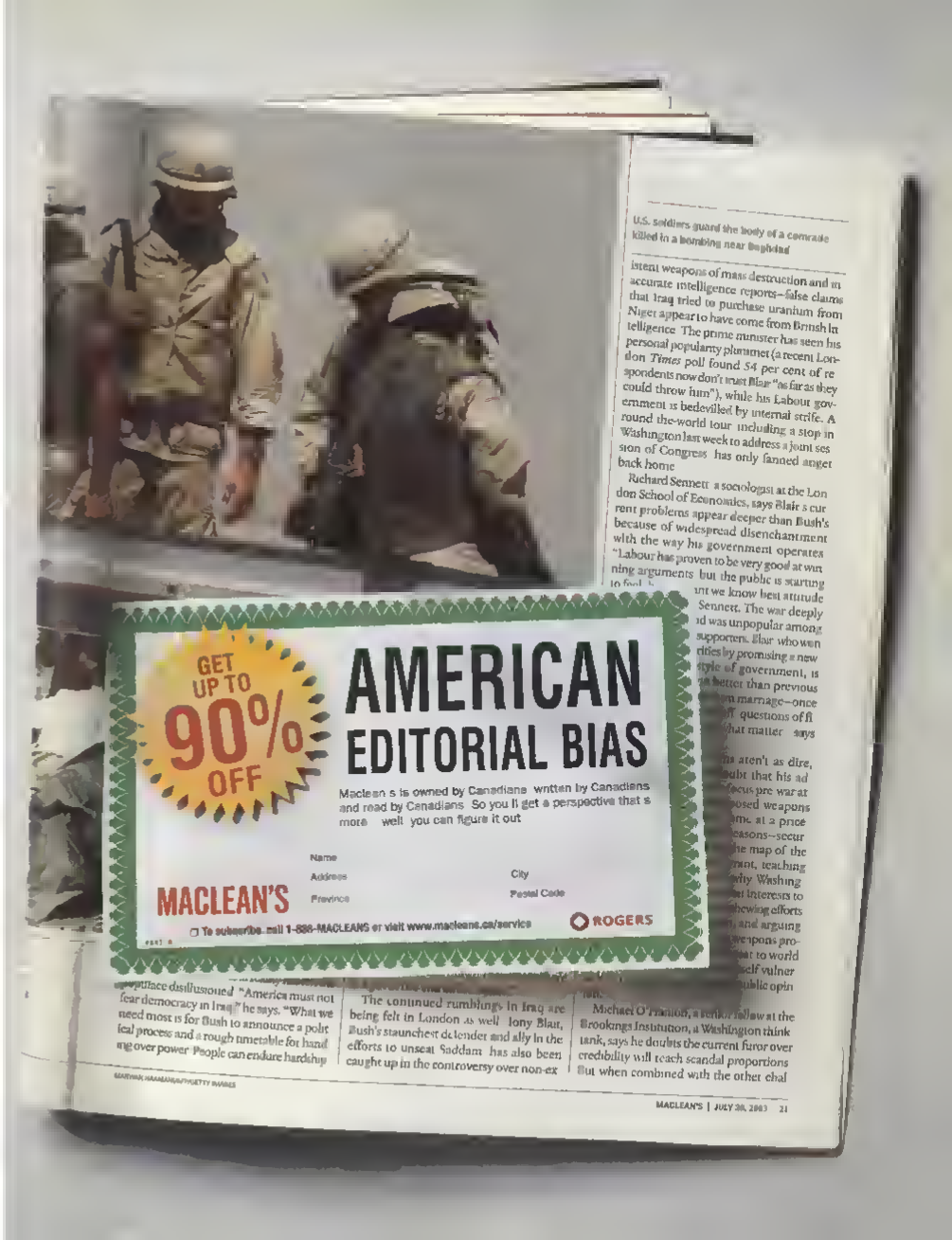
THE DRUG became known as 'hillbilly heroin'; a high-powered opiate readily available in the woods of rural America

"The dealers use cellphones and pagers," explains McLean. "They give their customers passwords." He parks on a side street, not far from a rundown, two-storey home, and settles lower in his seat. Within minutes, a white sedan rolls past the house, letting out two men who quickly go inside. "This is a place we've been watching for a while," McLean murmurs. "But we have to wait for the right time." In the past, he explains, police have gotten wind that dealers have obtained supplies of pills, "but in the few hours it takes for us to go to a judge and get a warrant, they've sold it all off." Wary of alerting these suspected dealers, McLean quietly starts the vehicle and drives away.

Why Cape Breton became an epicentre of this market remains a matter of heated debate. Lawrence and McLean, both of whom grew up in the region, suspect pot users and alcoholics are graduating to more serious stuff; the island, they point out, has always had its share of substance abusers. But a tour of withering communities around Glace Bay—Dominion, New Waterford, Reserve—highlights socio-economic factors that may have played a role, too. Like residents of West Virginia or Pennsylvania, Cape Bretoners live amid the ruins of once thriving coal mines and steel mills, industries that have left a legacy of double-digit unemployment and illness. And while the average Cape Bretoner is likely to live two years less than other Canadians, he's also likely to spend six more of those years fighting some form of long-term disability. It's just the kind of place for a miracle painkiller.

The result: OxyContin began turning up in medicine cabinets in Cape Breton just as economic hardship made reselling it attractive. Between 2000 and 2003, the number of OxyContin prescriptions dispensed

PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDOR FIZLI



in Cape Breton rose 270 per cent, to almost 4,000. People taking the drug were averaging 15,200 mg per year—fully 2,000 more than the provincial average. Some seniors took to calling it the "pension pill," because they could hawk it to augment their incomes, says John Malcom, chief executive officer of the island's regional health authority. Brian Petite, a pharmacist who operates a dispensary in Glace Bay, saw prescription holders who were obviously fronted by buyers who'd followed them to the store. "I knew a couple of guys who wouldn't have $10 in their pockets," he says. "All of a sudden, they're handing me hundreds." He called authorizing doctors to double check the prescriptions, he says, but was instructed to fill them anyway.

Today, no one seems sure where to direct their anger. The province's prescription monitoring program could have been faster to spot the danger, according to some critics. While Petite says he phoned the program in 2001 to report suspicions the drug was being abused, the agency did not flag OxyContin for special monitoring until this year. The program is hampered by an antiquated paper-based process. Its manager, Colcen Conway, says an electronic system such as one currently running in B.C. would allow pharmacists to spot instances of double-doctoring and disproportionate use on the spot, but the province has yet to agree to fund one.

ABUSERS learned that grinding up the pills broke down the control mechanism and unleashed the drug's full force

Others have focused their ire on individual doctors, who they say have been prescribing OxyContin too freely. "There's no doubt there's patterns to this," says one Sydney-area pharmacist who asked not to be named. But there have been no official complaints to the province's College of Physicians and Surgeons, and at least one prominent addiction specialist in Cape Breton believes that, more than anything, some of his colleagues have been naive. "By and large, we are a trusting group of individuals," says Dr. Tom Crawford, who also runs a family practice in Glace Bay. "It's taken us a long time to convince doctors around here that they have to be more careful."

IF DOCTORS WERE over-prescribing OxyContin, then family practitioners say at least some of the responsibility lies with Purdue. Its representatives, they say, worked at expanding the market by strongly suggesting OxyContin for less serious ailments like chronic back pain. Such accusations are nothing new to the company: in the U.S., Purdue faces some 300 lawsuits alleging improper promotion of the drug, as well as accusations by the DEA of overly aggressive marketing. In early 2003, following negotiations with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the company removed information from its Web site that appeared to suggest unapproved uses of OxyContin. But the criticisms in Cape Breton strike at the heart of Purdue's marketing strategy. "The party line is that, if used for the indications it's meant for, this drug is OK," says Crawford. "I think there are other drugs, with less potential for abuse, that work just as well for things like chronic back pain."

John Stewart, executive vice-president and general manager of Purdue Pharma in Canada, denies his sales reps promoted the drug improperly in Cape Breton. But he acknowledges its widespread availability may have led to abuse. In the meantime, Purdue is working on ways to prevent misuse, he says, such as adding an "antagonist" that would activate if the drug is crushed, blocking the effect of the opiate. "But it's not yet in clinical trials," he warns from his office in Pickering, Ont. "We're still years away."

Whether such measures would have spared someone like Prendergast is unclear: by his own admission, he was "the kind of person who'd try anything once." He stares at his feet when recalling his high-school graduation—the day his parents found syringes in his bedroom. "When I came home," he recalls, "they had the needles laid out on the kitchen table." That led to the first of several bouts of detox. But getting clean, he says, is something he chose to do himself. He's currently taking classes at the University College of Cape Breton, volunteering at his local Boys and Girls Club and dreaming of a career in law. It'll be a long, tough road, but hardly as bad as the one he just travelled. M

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'LITTLE BLUES' IN THE BIG CITY

"Hillbilly heroin" was the name that stuck, but there's mounting evidence to suggest OxyContin's fan base reaches far beyond the Ozarks. Police in both the U.S. and Canada are uncovering increasing numbers of OxyContin trafficking rings in metropolitan centres, while big-city doctors are accused of writing fake prescriptions for the painkiller. And—as with practically anything you shoot or snort—celebrity abusers are helping push the drug into the spotlight.





Its best-known abuser may be Rush Limbaugh, the right-wing radio host who railed against drugs (insisting, among other things, that addicts should be jailed) before admitting his own addiction to painkillers last October. His former housekeeper, who served as his drug connection, says Limbaugh was particularly attached to OxyContin, referring fondly to the pills as "little blues." Rocker Courtney Love also told police she was on the drug when she was arrested that same month outside her ex-boyfriend's house, and is now facing unrelated charges of illegal possession of prescription drugs. There's even a rock 'n' roll song about OxyContin. *Hillbilly Junk* is a tinny, rollicking paean to the analgesic that appears on a recently released album by Paul Westerberg, former front man for the Replacements.

OxyContin still has nowhere near the street popularity of cocaine and heroin. But one recent case in Toronto illustrates the changes afoot: a 57-year-old doctor, Ravi Devgan, is accused of faking prescriptions so pills could be diverted to illegal users. At his trial last week, prosecutor Moiz Rahman warned the jury to forget their Hollywood notions of the drug trade—of white powder in bags and briefcases full of money. "The tools of the trade here," he said, "are a white lab coat, a pen and preprinted pieces of white paper." C.G

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BEYOND THE FENCE

Among Palestinians in Jenin, ALEXANDRE TRUDEAU finds despair, defiance and a society in disarray

Earlier this year, Maclean's *Contributing Editor* **Alexandre Trudeau** *travelled to the Middle East to assess how people on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are coping with the enduring hostilities. This week's report, the third in a four-part series, is from the Palestinian city of Jenin*



Overlooking Jenin from the city's refugee camp, site of a major siege

A SHORT walk from the Atars' farm, where I stayed for a month and a half, is Israel's new security barrier. Beyond the fence is Jenin, the Palestinian city at the northern tip of the West Bank where I would subsequently live with a Palestinian family.

The fence looks like a gash, visible at great distance as it runs over the hills and plains of the region. It's a new variation on an old idea, the one used by the Chinese Emperors to try to keep the Mongol hordes out, or by the Communist bloc to keep its subjects in. On the Israeli side, a paved service road runs beside the fence, which is metal mesh that rises about 10 feet. It is, of course, electrified with enough current to be deadly. Razor wire coils are splayed out on the Palestinian side to bar any approach. At regular intervals along its length, the fence is fitted with cameras. The Palestinians do not mess with the fence.

Crossing is done at checkpoints manned by Israeli soldiers. I have passed through many times, and am treated as something of an anomaly by the young conscripts. For them, I am entering the lion's den, and they need to make an effort to remember that everyone is not locked into hatred, and that I can in fact casually glide into places that for them are just short of hell.

The soldiers are by no means a politically homogeneous bunch. Sometimes my nonchalant crossing makes them smile sadly and shake their heads, as if saying, "This may seem absurd, but we are stuck in this mess." Other times, they react aggressively, telling me that I "should visit other nice places like Gaza." That, essentially, means that I can go to hell.

For most Israelis, Jenin is a rough, bad place, a lair of extremists. On the slopes of the southern edge of the Yizreel Valley, Jenin is close to Israeli towns such as Afula and Beit Shean, and not too far from Haifa. It has been the source of numerous suicide bomb attacks on these centres. For Israelis, most West Bank population centres are out of sight over the hills and far away. Jenin is just across the plain, and thus that much scarier.

The fence is the latest attempt to contain Jenin. Two years ago, Israel resorted to much more violent means. After a particularly brutal suicide bombing, the military sent tanks and helicopter gunships to lay siege to the town and annihilate any resistance. The battle lasted almost two weeks. When it ended, a large area at the centre of the Jenin refugee camp had been flattened.

I happen to be in Jenin on the second anniversary of the attack. It is also a mere 10 days after the assassination of Hamas's spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin. The mood is one of defiance and anger. Amid the narrow streets and ramshackle housing of the camp, an open space strewn with piles of rubble marks ground zero of the attack. Surrounding buildings are strung with banners featuring the faces of those killed. People gather to hear inflamed speeches about martyrdom and holy war. To the beating of drums, brigades of hooded men carrying assault rifles erupt into the square. The guns are fired into the air. Figures cloaked in white appear on the makeshift podium. Fake sticks of dynamite strapped to their bodies, they stand silently in front of the cheering crowd, demonstrating their readiness to die. And to kill.

One dapper middle-aged gentleman in the crowd tells me he spent 17 years in Edmonton. He returned to Jenin to take care of his ailing father and run the family's appliance shop. "In the past month," he says with a fatalistic smile, "I have sold $5 worth of merchandise." He then turns to the grim spectacle before us, shaking his head. "You put us in a cage, so we will be like animals."

A young man introduces himself. He is named Wissam, and is eager to practise his English. "In the camp, we are all refugees," he explains. "We ran from our land in 1948. My family had many acres near Haifa. We didn't think we would be here for so long. Now they attack us here. Where are we supposed to run?" He takes me to see his small house and meet his family and neighbours. In the tenement next door, a man named Youssuf and his wife occupy a small room with their six children. The family previously lived in a building that came under attack. They fled to a friend's house. When the battle was over, they returned to find their home had been demolished along with everything they owned. Since then, they have occupied this room of an already overcrowded building. Youssuf now supports his family by picking wild herbs in the hills above Jenin and selling them at the market. He has caged off a small area of his minuscule habitation to make room for songbirds. Youssuf invites me to dinner, which turns out to be tea and popcorn.

At first sight, Jenin looks extremely ominous. Even outside of the camp, in the city proper, the streets and buildings are damaged. Every wall has political posters of young martyrs wearing Islamic headbands and carrying rifles. Behind them in the pictures looms the al-Aqsa Mosque of Jerusalem. After a few days, Jenin no longer appears so ominous, just desperate. There are no restaurants, cinemas or clubs—not much to do.

But the Internet café is an obvious hangout. That's where I meet Areen al-Souqi. "I started my teenage years with the first

PHOTOGRAPH BY FARAH NOOR

intifada," he tells me." I started my 20s with the second. I am alive only because I am not dead." After I've had a few dinners at their house, Areen's family responds to my desire to experience daily life in Jenin and offers me a place in their home. They live in a nice villa on the north side of town. Areen's father's garden is the lushest around. He grows pomegranates, quince, guava, artichokes, olives and bananas.

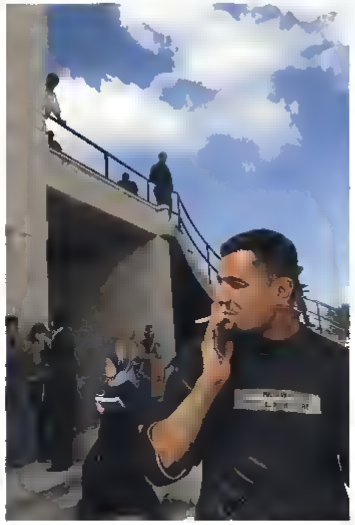
Areen's father is an optometrist who has a small eyeglass shop in downtown Jenin. "Before the troubles, even Jews used to come to buy glasses from us," Areen explains. "But now local people cannot afford glasses anymore. My father is like everyone else in Jenin, he goes to work just to pass the day." In such a small region, a healthy economy requires the free flow of trade between population centres. Now, Jenin is not only sealed off from Israel by the fence, but bad roads and numerous checkpoints make travel to other Palestinian towns difficult. There is virtually no economy as such in Jenin anymore.

There is also no law and order. "I am lucky," Areen tells me. "I can move about freely in Jenin. The al-Souqis are a big and old family here. No one messes with us because if push comes to shove we out-man just about every other family here. Plus I can walk about in the camp, which most people cannot do. The people in the camp hate the regular townspeople because they did not help the camp when it was attacked. I volunteered to dig people out of the rubble afterwards—more bodies than people, really. But I am known there now."

Areen explains that the policemen from the Palestinian Authority are only for show. "The real power here are the boys of the al-Aqsa Brigade," he says. "They have guns and aren't afraid to use them. My family sold some land a few years ago. The buyers didn't pay up in full. First we tried to settle this with a lawyer in court, but the buyers just ignored us. Now we have gone to see al-Aqsa. They will settle it the hard way."

In truth, the al-Souqis are the moderate bourgeoisie of Jenin. They have land, history and once had some wealth. But Jenin's social mores have become so eroded that even the al-Souqis need to re-adhere to tribal customs and the law of the jungle.

A more subtle effect of the social regression is the shift toward religious conservatism. The al-Souqis' wedding pictures depict women in low-cut blouses with permed hair and fashionable jewellery. Now the al-Souqi daughters, Hazar and Nowar, wear headscarves and cultivate the most extreme modesty. Though both in their early 20s, they are too timid to talk to me for days after my arrival. Once, unaware that I have returned to the house, one of them emerges from her room without her headscarf. She frantically dashes back in and, overcome by shame, does not come out again for hours.



Areen will graduate soon from the local university, but says 'there's no life here'

AFTER a few days, Jenin no longer appears so ominous, just desperate. There is virtually no economy.

All three al-Souqi children are students at the Arab American University of Jenin. The campus is in the hills about six kilometres south of Jenin: a series of sandstone buildings connected by stone walkways. It's a private university where the classes are taught in English. The studies are mostly in practical fields such as business administration, computer sciences and dentistry. It is bright and hopeful, one of the few places where young men and women can be together, where young people can fruitfully pass the time. But this summer's graduates will emerge to confront the question of what they can do with their education.

Attendance has also been a problem. Some days, students simply cannot reach the campus because of Israeli roadblocks. Last year, Israeli soldiers suddenly detained 500 students on the school's access road. They were kept standing for five hours without explanation, then released.

We are watching television one night at the al-Souqis when a news flash tells us there has been an attack in Gaza. We switch to al-Jazeera. There has been an Israeli missile strike on a car carrying Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who succeeded Yassin as leader of Hamas and who promised a hundred reprisals for Yassin's death. On TV, we see a mob surrounding the overturned vehicle. Men flip the car over and begin to extract its occupants. The passengers cannot be seen, but the men working to free them are soon covered in blood. Stretchers are finally brought in. Bloodied remains are frantically loaded onto them and carried off. Rantisi has been killed.

The images are beyond gruesome. I am shocked and terrified, knowing the effect they will have on millions of people in the Arab world. The feeling among the al-Souqis is one of extreme powerlessness. The daughters and the father weep quietly. Rantisi was a hard man, an extremist, but he was a Palestinian, one of theirs brutally struck down. The cycle of violence goes on, they know, and Palestinians, in lost livelihood and lost lives, always pay the heavier price. Violence begets violence. Hate upon hate upon hate.

Outside on the balcony, Areen is worked up. "I've got to get out of here," he says. "There is no life here." The call to prayer sounds from the mosque. "What about a life of prayer?" I muse. Areen gets angry. "God has given me a mind, has given me energy. These are not only for prayer but to build something. If I don't find a way to make good, I will fight!" He growls. "I will get out, or I will die, or I will be in prison!"

PHOTOGRAPH BY FARAH NOSH

ALL PUMPED UP OVER GAS

It'll take more than a buck-a-litre summer to get Canadians out of their SUVs

GASOLINE PRICES weighed on the minds of Brent and Barbara Holden when they went SUV shopping last August. Initially, the Calgary couple were drawn to the Ford Explorer. But the prospect of higher gas and insurance costs made them opt for the 2003 Ford Escape, a more compact and fuel-efficient SUV. Last week, as gasoline prices surged to record levels—88.5 cents per litre at some Calgary stations, close to $1 in other parts of the country, and with little relief in sight—the Holdens started to alter their driving habits. For longer commutes, they are now using their three-year-old Oldsmobile Alero sedan. The verdict is still out on which vehicle they'll drive on upcoming vacations. What would it take for them to permanently park the Escape? "Prices would have to rise higher," says Brent, an architectural designer. "Probably even $1 a litre wouldn't do it. We'd just drive the other car more."

Analysts say this is how most Canadians will likely respond to a punishing summer at the pumps. They'll shift gears when it comes to driving routines, try to fill up when ever retail prices temporarily dip—and wait to see if the perennially fickle oil and gas markets eventually turn in their favour. What they won't do, at least in the short term, is make a sharp U-turn in their choice of wheels. Michael Ervin, president of Calgary-based MJ Ervin & Associates, which monitors petroleum market trends, observes, "We're not even close to that real psychological point where people start to fundamentally change their gasoline and vehicle buying decisions."

Such consumer doggedness extends well beyond Canada's borders. A study released this spring by the Paris-based International Energy Agency examined fossil-fuel use over the past three decades in 13 industrialized nations, including Canada. It found that gasoline prices, whether high or low, had little impact on how much people drive. The study also concluded that any shift to smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles can take years to unfold: it tends to occur only when consumers are already in the market for a new car, people rarely change vehicles *because* of gas prices. There are two great exceptions to this trend: the energy crises of 1973 and 1979, which resulted in actual fuel shortages and panic lineups at the pumps. "That was the only time consumers moved in droves to smaller vehicles," says Dennis DesRosiers,



A MANAGER of a forum on gas prices is amazed at how emotional things get. 'People become absolutely enraged.'

ILLUSTRATION BY AISLIN

an independent automobile analyst based in Richmond Hill, Ont. "And Canadians have, for the most part, stayed with those products."

In fact, Canadian drivers may be well positioned to weather the recent gasoline spikes—at least in comparison to their American counterparts. Market share statistics compiled by DesRosiers show that, in 2003, Canadians favoured compact cars and relatively fuel-efficient minivans by a two-to-one margin over U.S. consumers. On the other hand, Americans out-purchased us significantly when it came to mid-size and luxury cars as well as sport utility vehicles—especially the largest, gas-guzzling models such as the Cadillac Escalade. DesRosiers says the difference is due mainly to economics: automobiles cost less to buy, insure and gas up in the United States. But there is also a strong cultural component. "Canadians tend to see their vehicles as a way of getting from point A to B as inexpensively as possible," he says. "Americans have a true love with the automobile. They see it as their God-given right to drive where they want, when they want."

For all of that, high gasoline prices affect all drivers, and the recent hikes have been especially brutal. Ervin & Associates' weekly survey of gas retailers shows a surge of extraordinary magnitude and speed. The company reported that, as of May 11, the average Canadian price for a litre of regular stood at a record 90.4 cents. That's 19 cents higher than at the start of the year, with the bulk of the jump coming in the previous two weeks. Hardest hit: Vancouver, Whitehorse and Montreal. And don't expect much relief through the summer. "We're likely to see $1 a litre in markets that are highly taxed, such as Quebec and Newfoundland," says Ervin, "though it's unlikely in most other big city markets."

Whenever gas prices rise, consumer tempers flare, and this time is no different. Already, Web sites dedicated to informing Canadians about the best gas bargains are reporting more visitors. Greg Webster oversees one such site, *www.gastips.com*, based in Richmond, B.C. Started in 2000 during another spike in gasoline prices, the site is an on-line community where tipsters from across the country report which local stations are offering good rates. As well, everyone is encouraged to participate in a feedback forum. The discussion is lively. Webster, who finds himself frequently forced to wade in to clean up profanity and personal insults, is constantly amazed at how emotional it all gets. "This is one of those topics people get very annoyed about," he says. "Even if they have a small car and it costs an extra 75 cents to fill up, that's enough for them to become absolutely enraged."

Consumer fury over the cost of gas is something of a summer ritual. Prices normally rise at this time of year, as refineries are hard-pressed to keep up with increased demand from vacationing motorists. Rates tend to stay high until Labour Day, when demand drops off. This year, the seasonal blip is magnified by escalating crude oil prices, which hit US$40 a barrel in the middle of this month, a 14-year high. Crude prices—driven upward by high demand from Asia and terrorist threats in the Middle East—are responsible for about a third of the current retail price of gasoline.

Who's to blame for the rest? Last week, the federal Competition Bureau, in response to a flood of consumer complaints, launched a probe into whether oil companies are conspiring to gouge consumers—the fourth such examination since 1996. Previous studies found no evidence of price fixing, a conclusion many expect the watchdog agency to come to again.

Others take governments to task, noting that, in most regions, about 40 per cent of the gas price is attributable to taxes, reaping more than $10 billion a year for federal and provincial treasuries. But contrary to popular belief, Ervin says many governments don't enjoy a windfall from out pain at the pump. Ottawa benefits because, as prices go up, it collects more money through the GST applied on gasoline. Quebec and parts of the Maritimes also stand to gain sales tax revenue. Other provinces have only a fixed per-litre levy, which doesn't result in any additional money when gas prices soar.

The biggest pressure point, says Ervin, is the inability of refineries to respond to increased demand, thereby keeping inventories low, especially during the critical summer months. "The existing facilities haven't expanded their capacities to keep up with demand," he says. The fact that oil refiners are amassing huge profits as a result isn't going to sit well with frustrated consumers. Whether they end up pointing the finger, it promises to be a long, hot summer. M

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'CANADIANS see cars as a way of getting from point A to B. For Americans, driving is a God-given right.'

OIL TRICKLE EFFECT: READY FOR STICKER SHOCK?

When the price of oil soars, the first hit usually comes at the gas pump. But that may be just the beginning. Some experts predict that our available stocks of crude will start to decline as early as 2006. And while the situation is not as dire as it seems—a barrel of oil is in fact US$20 cheaper now than in 1980, once inflation is taken into account—this could be just the first phase of a longer-term oil-price surge. If that happens, the effect will in time trickle down to many other goods.



Even maple syrup requires oil

Medical products: Everything from heart valves to bandages is made with petroleum.

Pesticides: Oil is usually their main ingredient. And if pesticide cost goes up, so will the price of food.

Clothing. Polyester shirts and shoes with artificial-rubber soles will no longer be a steal.

Beauty products: Most make-up is petroleum-based, as are laundry detergents.

Maple syrup: Oil is used to boil away water in the process that turns sap to syrup.

Plastics: Petroleum is in everything from film to CDs to garbage bags—even gas station price signs. KARIN MARLEY





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A guide to the on demand world **Integration**

Integrationphobia.

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SEND OUT THE SLEAZEBAGS

How can business stay creative while controlling its dirty players?

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL recently nearly joined the list of malefactors on the Web. It agreed (for a reported US$2.5 million) with Hollywood's Columbia Pictures to cover its bases with Spider-Man's trademark web and red and black colours to promote the sequel to that cartoon character smash hit. Astonished by an outpouring of protests from long-suffering fans, those frequently base baseball moguls—the capitalists you love to hate—scotched the deal. Diamonds will continue (apart from Chicago's wonderful Wrigley Field) to be surrounded by billboards, and products will still be pitched at mega-decibel volumes by loudspeakers, but the field of dreams will not be, however temporarily, a nightmare for those who have kept the faith.

That baseball owners' greed would let them violate the rules of their game is part of a much bigger and much more noxious process of corruption of the rules of the game that is our economy. The announcement cancelling the Spider-Man deal came the day that Lea Fastow, wife of Enron's infamous CFO, pled guilty to a minor income tax charge in a plea deal that will send her to jail for just one year. Three days earlier, Frank Quattrone, Silicon Valley's highest-profile and biggest-earning investment banker during the mania years, was convicted of obstruction of justice arising from investigations into his practice of "spinning" hot new tech stock offerings to clients and to insiders of companies whose underwriting business he sought. The buyers were usually able to sell their allotments within minutes for huge profits.

Further, these stories came within days of the revelation of the latest accounting mess and stock price collapse for Nortel, once Canada's most valuable corporation, headed by the nation's most admired CEO, John Roth, who exited with a fortune in stock-option profits before the company's first plunge. Nor were the horror stories restricted to the nineties nouveaux riches: one of capitalism's most venerable names, Shell Oil, whose motto has long been, "You can be sure of Shell," fessed up recently to overstating its oil reserves by 3.9 billion barrels, which at today's prices is worth more than US$125 billion—or more than was lost in Enron or WorldCom.

Milton Friedman, capitalism's pre-eminent economist, has long maintained that "the main problem of capitalism is capitalists; the main problem of socialism is socialism." Since the earliest days of capitalism, there have been sensational scumbags who pillaged the public. The South Sea Bubble occurred nearly three centuries ago. Its underlying premise was no sillier than those used to peddle hundreds of Internet companies. Even Sir Isaac Newton, perhaps the most brilliant scientific mind Britain ever produced, bought into South Sea shares near the peak and lost heavily.

Is the expression "business ethics" a risible oxymoron like "military intelligence" or "Playboy philosophy"? And how is it that the era in which accounting scams and alleged fraud (like WorldCom or Parmalat) occurred on record scale coincides with record populations of accountants and chartered financial analysts? As Casey Stengel lamented, "Can't anybody here play this game?"

ACCOUNTING messes, obstruction of justice—is the expression 'business ethics' a risible oxymoron like 'military intelligence' or 'Playboy philosophy'?

These scandals have unleashed a wave of well-intentioned reforms, starting with the awesomely detailed U.S. Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. Corporate governance failures have also produced a new breed of enforcers, such as CalPERS, America's largest pension fund. These organizations use their formidable share ownership positions and their promotional powers to pressure managements to meet their ethical criteria.

The good news is that entrenched boards are under siege from major investment organizations. The bad news: many of the new laws, regulations and liabilities are discouraging worthy business people from serving on corporate boards, leaving control to academics and public figures who usually don't have the deep financial pockets that could attract lawsuits. The new petitfoggers can carry their purification to the point of absurdity: Institutional Shareholder Services, one of the leading shareholders' rights groups last month demanded that Warren Buffett, America's most successful investor and Coca-Cola's largest stockholder, be dumped from Coke's board for "conflicts of interest."

Actually, the most useful reform in recent years is the new accounting rule forcing companies to expense stock options. Companies are responding by altering their executive compensation packages, emphasizing cash or shares of stock that must be held for significant periods of time. By reducing the rewards for sleazebags to overstate earnings during a bull market, and then cashing out options and selling before the truth emerges, the new rules will do more good than all the complex regulations that have created a new cottage industry in corporate governance.

By its nature, capitalism attracts the audacious and those who seek to play outside the rules. Hockey has failed to become a major sport in the U.S. because it honours brutes who bash those who skate better and shoot more accurately. Business in general is struggling to balance the need to control its dirty players, while still attracting the venturous and creative. Ultimately, a sensible incentive system should largely clean up the markets. Baseball may have to wait.

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3.5 SE model shown. *Optional on 3.5 SE model. Factory-installed option. GPS service may not function properly when satellite reception is weak. Mapping may not be detailed in all areas. **Standard on 3.5 SE with 3L Package, optional on 3.5 SE Value, the Bose Food Studio, "SHIFT_" logic, and the Nissan model names are Nissan trademarks.

THE DAWN OF A NEW OLD AGE



Gutman (standing) says only competency should be judged

Mandatory retirement at 65 is a concept that itself could soon be retired, writes KEN MACQUEEN

PROF. GLORIA GUTMAN has the kind of credentials that should guarantee a long, fruitful stay at the peak of her profession. She developed and directs the highly regarded Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. She's written or edited 20 books and more than 100 scholarly articles on such issues of the elderly as housing, environmental design, dementia and long-term care. Her work is recognized beyond Canada's borders—she's president of the International Association of Gerontology, representing organizations in 60 countries.

Gutman's problem is this: on July 17 she turns 65. At SFU, as at many institutions and workplaces across Canada, that's the age of mandatory retirement. Happy birthday! Here's your watch,

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN HOWELL

there's the door. One day she's 64 and an internationally respected member of faculty. The next she's too old—how weird is this?—to be employed as an expert on aging. "I find it odious indeed," she says with an exasperated sigh. "I'm not tired. I'm not bored with academia yet. It just doesn't make sense to me that we should not be judged on the basis of our competency at whatever age we are." Gutman, like many women, worked part-time without full benefits or pension while her three children were young. Her desire to work past 65 is a matter of choice, she says, but for many women it's an economic necessity. She and other like-minded professors are considering a legal challenge of SFU's 65-and-out rule. Meantime, she'll reluctantly sign a post-retirement contract to allow her to stay on as director for at least another year.

Forced retirement is also sparking a brain drain. Award-winning economics professors Charles Blackorby, 65, and his wife Margaret Slade, 63, left the University of British Columbia last year for the University of Warwick in England. "Mandatory retirement was a major factor in our decision," says Blackorby from their new base in Coventry. "The age of [academic] retirement in the U.K. is 67. The pay is better, the teaching is less and we get to work two years longer, which changes our retirement income picture quite a bit." In Gutman's view, Canada is tossing away a valuable part of its labour force. "It's insane when you figure what life expectancy is today," she says. "Plus, you look at demographics and realize that fertility rates are dropping. We need everybody to work who can work."

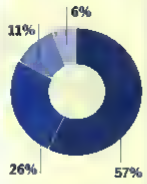
> "YOU get your gold watch and then what you do is retire and play golf? I don't think it's a healthy or creative concept."

Increasingly, opinion leaders share that view. Mandatory retirement, once a hallmark of a prosperous and civilized society, now seems doomed by demographics. With too many old people and too few young, something's got to give. Canada's 65-year old Prime Minister Paul Martin wants an end to mandatory retirement. Bank of Canada governor David Dodge calls the policy "silly" in the face of a coming labour shortage. Ontario will consult this summer on ways to end forced retirement. "When you reach the age of 65 in Ontario, you should make the decision as to whether you want to continue to work," says Premier Dalton McGuinty.

STILL WORKING
Percentage of all seniors aged 65 and older who are still in the labour force:

%	WOMEN	MEN
1999	3.4	9.8
2000	3.3	9.5
2001	3.4	9.4
2002	3.7	10.5
2003	4.1	11.5

Employed seniors as a percentage of age group



SOURCE FOR ALL CHARTS: STATISTICS CANADA

McGuinty, 48, is part of that vast, blessed, demographically domineering baby boom, the post-war population with the softest hands in Canadian history. There's no small irony in the fact that members of this generation seem destined to work longer than their parents. It's a notion that sends chills down the aching backs of some labourers bent over factory assembly lines, or trapped in cubicleland, counting the months until the pension kicks in.

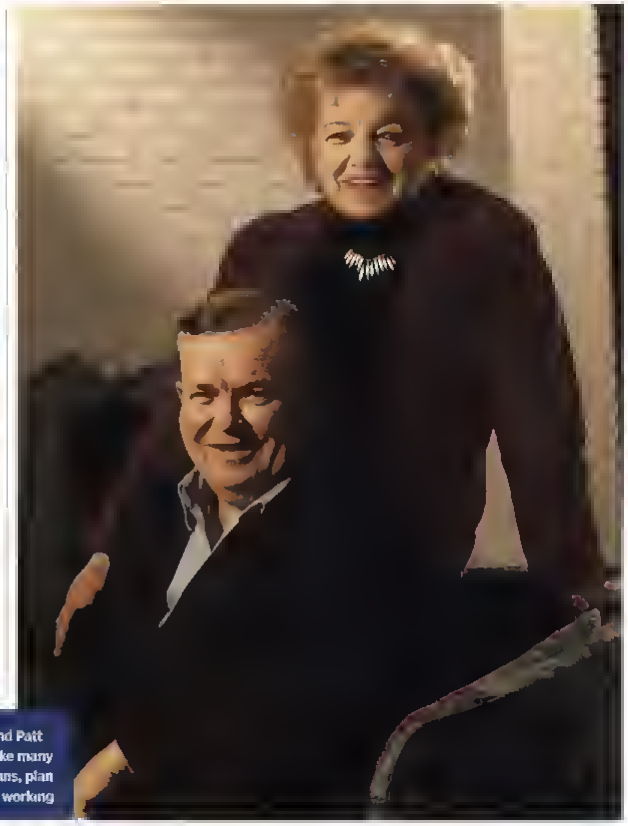
Ceaseless toil, it seems, is an idea whose time has come. Again. Bye-bye leisure society, we hardly knew you. And good riddance, says Thomas d'Aquino, president and CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, the Ottawa-based lobby of Canada's largest corporations. While the council hasn't taken a position on mandatory retirement, the 63-year-old d'Aquino certainly has. "You get your gold watch and then what you do is you retire and play golf?" he says. "I think that's a very outdated concept. I don't think it's a healthy or creative concept. My definition of leisure is to be able to do what you want as opposed to the ability to do nothing."

Some see lingering longer in the workforce as an economic imperative. Forced retirement and early buyouts make no sense for employers in the face of a looming labour shortage. As for workers, recent polls show mounting public doubts that their government or company pensions will be there when they retire. For that matter, as life expectancy stretches into the 80s, is 60 or 65 too young to collect a full pension? The U.S. and several cash-strapped European countries now think so.

For some critics, forced retirement is simply unfair: why is age the last bastion of socially accepted discrimination? "Nobody has a shelf life," declares the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which set the agenda in that province with a 2001 report calling for an amendment to the rights code to make mandatory retirement illegal. Chief commissioner Keith Norton says society has changed since 1990 when the Supreme Court of Canada upheld mandatory retirement as a justifiable limit on consitutional rights. Among the arguments considered by the judges—themselves with a mandatory retirement age of 75—was that older workers blocked the young from the workforce. Most economists dismiss that as invalid, saying the economy creates as many jobs as there are workers to fill them, as it did when women entered the workforce. In any case, young people will soon be in short supply as the population ages. Ontario alone will have some three million people 65 or older by 2021, double the number in 1998. Careers and families are starting later in life, why not retirement? Norton, 63, jokes that he's at risk of a conflict of interest, but he's adamant the public wants "the dignity of planning their own retirement according to their needs and resources."

Organized labour is not inclined to agree. Many union leaders see the issue as an assault on hard-won collective agreements and pensions—an attempt to roll back progress to the worst days of the Industrial Revolution, an era in which you retired when your heart stopped beating.

Wayne Samuelson, 52, president



Brian and Patt Noga, like many Canadians, plan to keep working

OVER THE HILL? WHAT HILL?

At 65+, some people are just hitting their stride. For others, it's business as usual. Some notable examples.

MAKING THE BIG LEAGUE

WINSTON CHURCHILL. At 65, he became British prime minister in 1940



HARRIET DOERR: At 74, she published her first book, the best-seller *Stones for Ibarra*, in 1984



MAHATMA GANDHI: At 77, he led India to independence in 1947

AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI: At 76, he returned to Iran to head up the Islamic government in 1979

NELSON MANDELA. At 75, he was sworn in as the first post-apartheid president of South Africa in 1994

PAUL MARTIN. At 65, he was sworn in as prime minister of Canada in 2003

GRANDMA MOSES. At 80, she got the first big breakthrough of her folk-art career with her one-woman show in 1940





RONALD REAGAN At 69, he became U.S. president in 1981

MOTHER TERESA. At 69, she won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work

NO STOPPING NOW

TONY BENNETT At 77, he's been crooning for audiences for 58 years



FIDEL CASTRO At 77, he has ruled Cuba for 45 years

QUEEN ELIZABETH II. At 77, she has been monarch for 52 years

SOPHIA LOREN At 69, she's been a silver screen siren for 54 years



PATRICIA TREBLE

AFP; AP; PETER DEJONG/AP

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS WOODS (TOP); CHRIS BACON/AP; MARK LENNIHAN/AP; AFP

of the Ontario Federation of Labour and a former worker at a Kitchener, Ont., tire plant, remembers rubber workers striking to win the right to retire after 30 years. He doesn't want such advances eroded. The dubious freedom to work longer to make up pension or benefit shortfalls is a "cop out," he says. What next, a 60-hour week, he asks. "I believe I'll still be around to receive phone calls from reporters to debate whether we should be removing access to pension benefits up to age 67 or 69. I really do see this as the first step."

Samuelson says the debate to kill mandatory retirement in Ontario seems over before it began. "The Liberals promised to do this as part of their election platform," he says. "My guess is it's probably the only election promise they're going to keep." The "emotional appeal" of a 64-year-old who wants to keep working is hard for the union to counter, he concedes, but he doubts the public appreciates the sweeping ramifications of the issue. If age isn't the criterion for leaving the workforce, performance will be. Older workers, with higher insurance and disability costs, will be fired at the first dip in productivity—an uglier end to one's working life, he warns. "You'd have to be living on Mars to not expect that employers will find ways to get rid of people."

If you haven't noticed the start of the retirement debate, perhaps you've been too busy working. Get used to it. Mandatory retirement is already banned in Australia, New Zealand and, for a generation now, in the U.S. Americans have already taken what some predict, and others fear, is the next logical step—they've raised the eligibility age for a full government pension to 67 from 65. Even that may not be enough to spare an aging America from disaster, warns U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan, a 78-year-old poster boy for the wrinkling of the international workforce. The leading edge of the baby boom starts drawing retirement and medical benefits in 2008, a hit the U.S. economy can ill afford, Greenspan told a Congressional committee in February. He advocates cuts to inflation indexing and raising the eligibility age for Social Security in advance of the boomer wave. "This is a much larger problem than we can basically handle," he says.

Canada faces a similar demographic bulge and some of the same economic challenges, says Jonathan Kesselman, 59, a professor of public policy at Simon Fraser University and the author of *Time To Retire Mandatory Retirement*, a paper he's writing for the C.D. Howe Institute think tank. Currently, four people work per senior, but by mid-century there will be just two workers per senior, a shift that will have a huge impact on the economy and labour supply. "It makes little sense that average retirement ages have been declining at the same time that lifespans have been rising, health status of older persons improving and the physical demands of most jobs falling," he says. "A person entering the workforce at age 22 and retiring at 61 is spending just 39 years at work, barely half the lifetime."

The Canada Pension Plan appears sound for at least the next 75 years, due to a substantial jump in contribution rates, but Kesselman questions if a heavily retired Canada can afford such tax-funded benefits as old age security and health care. He wants politicians to screw up the courage to phase in an increase in the age for full

AN INCREASING SHARE

By 2026, there are expected to be 7.8 million seniors in Canada, accounting for 21.5 per cent of the population, up from 3.9 million or 12.6 per cent of the country in 2001. Canada's projected population (in millions)

	TOTAL POPULATION	65+
2001	31	3.9
2006	32.2	4.3
2011	33.4	4.8
2016	34.4	5.7
2021	35.4	6.7
2026	36.2	7.8

'A PERSON entering the workforce at 22 and retiring at 61 is spending just 39 years at work, barely half the lifetime'

WHAT COMES NEXT?

An executive, a researcher and a union boss describe their retirement plans



THOMAS D'AQUINO, OTTAWA AGE: 63 OCCUPATION: President and CEO of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives **RETIREMENT PLANS.** "I don't really plan to retire, ever. Retirement to me is sort of an alien concept. I really do believe that so long as people walk on the face of this earth they have to be engaged, in one way or another."



DAVID BAXTER, VANCOUVER AGE: 58 OCCUPATION Demographer, executive director, The Urban Futures Institute **RETIREMENT PLANS** "I'm out of here in two years. If somebody is going to get on a flight at eight o'clock to Grande Prairie in February, it ain't going to be David Baxter. But if somebody says, 'We'd like you to go to Hawaii to give a presentation, and we'll pay for the travel for your spouse as well,' I'm no longer retired."



WAYNE SAMUELSON, TORONTO AGE: 52 OCCUPATION Ex-rubber worker, current president of the Ontario Federation of Labour **RETIREMENT PLANS.** "There's not a chance in hell that I would work past 65 in this job." As for his previous job in a Kitchener, Ont., tire plant: "I don't know if I would have left at 49, which was my earliest retirement date, but I'm reasonably confident that I would not have been in that factory much beyond where I am now, 52. It's a tough life and there's lots of jobs like that in the heavy manufacturing sector."

JEAN-MARC CARISSE, COURTESY OF URBAN FUTURES; BRIAN WILLER



Marjorie Matthews, CFP
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

On Cultivating Interests in Life.

It takes admirable dedication to maintain a financial plan or a healthy garden. At the height of summer, nothing is so pleasing as a beautiful garden. Except perhaps a well-maintained financial plan. However, neither appears overnight. Green thumbs or not, it's perfectly natural to want expert assistance from a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP™) professional. Someone like Marjorie Matthews, who perceives certain similarities between her vocation (investment management) and her recreation (gardening).

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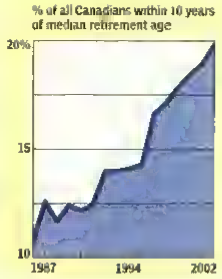
WHO'S SOLDIERING ON

In 2001, 305 000 seniors were working, up 20 per cent from 1996 when 254,000 were still on the job. Some of the most popular careers for seniors:

OCCUPATION	NO. EMPLOYED
Farmer	46,405
Retail sales clerk	10,575
Retail manager	9,585
Janitor	7,310
Bookkeeper	5,220
Security guard	4,655
Truck driver	4,310
General practitioner	2,945
Religious minister	2,855

THE SWELLING RANKS OF RETIREES

The current median retirement age is 60.6 years—an age the oldest baby boomers will start reaching in 2006. Statistics Canada has calculated the "near-retirement rate"—the percentage of workers within 10 years of the median retirement age



LIVING LONGER

Over the years, as conditions have improved, a Canadian baby has had a longer and longer life to look forward to.

PROJECTED LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH FOR BABIES BORN IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS

	WOMEN	MEN
1921	61	59
1931	62	60
1941	66	63
1951	71	66
1961	74	68
1971	76	69
1981	79	72
1991	81	75
2001*	82	77

*LIFE EXPECTANCY ESTIMATED

HOW LONG HAVE YOU GOT?

Statistics Canada has crunched the numbers for its 1995-97 complete life tables to figure out, on average, how much longer Canadians of given ages were likely to live

AGE	YEARS LEFT	
	WOMEN	MEN
55	28.4	23.9
60	24.1	19.8
65	19.9	16
70	16	12.7
75	12.4	9.7
80	9.3	7.2
85	6.7	5.3
90	4.7	3.8
95	3.2	2.6
100	2.3	1.9

pension benefits as the U.S. has done. "The trade-off means having a retirement age of 66, 67 or 68 as to when you get your full benefits, but having reasonable access to good quality health care." The alternative, he says, is "a pension at 65 and having all kinds of delisted services and massive waiting lists for really serious illnesses."

Raising the pensionable age may not be on the political agenda, yet. But offering the choice of an extended working life certainly is. Age-based retirement is already banned to varying degrees in all three northern territories and in Manitoba, Quebec, Alberta and Prince Edward Island. Employers can still punt workers of pensionable age in the other six provinces.

> **'BOOMERS** can expect to live long enough to be a problem not only for their children, but for their grandchildren too'

Age 65, in fact, is increasingly irrelevant as a retirement date. Half of workers are now off the clock before age 61. And at the other end of the scale, a new Statistics Canada study estimates 305,000 people 65 and older were employed in 2001—almost a 20 per cent increase in five years.

Patt Noga, executive director of the 50-plus Job Bank in Winnipeg, sees such people every day. Manitoba ended job discrimination by age in 1974, and the people Noga places today are neither shy nor retiring. Some have collected buyouts only to seek work when the money runs low, or when they start climbing the walls. "A lot of them have skills they still want to use, they're proud of them," she says. Most clients are in their late 50s, as Noga is, but those over 65 are accorded equal treatment. Besides, these days it's hard to tell the age difference, she says. "They're not somebody you would visualize as ready for the rocking chair."

A case in point is her 62-year-old husband, Brian Noga. By day, he's an accountant for a Manitoba regulatory agency. By night, he's studying to become a certified general accountant. "I'm probably going to have to work until I die," he says with remarkable good cheer. Part of the reason is financial. Like many Canadians, he hasn't saved enough to live on, a situation worsened when his technology stocks took a plunge. Then, too, he sees retired friends for whom the high point of the day is reading the newspaper. Working keeps you sharp, he says. "If you just sit back and vegetate, everything starts to fall apart, your mind and your focus. I don't want that to happen."

The end of mandatory retirement may be inevitable, but it's no panacea for the coming skills shortage, says Vancouver-based demographer David Baxter, executive director of the Urban Futures Institute. Those who keep working tend to be their own bosses, entrepreneurs and especially farmers. The kind of people, he says, with "nobody to give you a gold watch." Those retiring early are a more dominant social force: often teachers, nurses, firefighters and other public servants with indexed pensions. Baxter, 58, and a first-wave boomer himself, predicts the ranks of the early retired will soon swell as boomer husbands gaze lovingly at their working wives, and do the math. They're Canada's first substantial bloc of couples with two company pensions to play with.

Boomers, having never acted their age, aren't likely to start now. If age 65 becomes the new 50, does that make work the new retirement? Not likely. A generation notoriously averse to heavy lifting is apt to define retirement on its terms. "Baby boomers," Baxter and colleague Andrew Ramlo note in a report on life expectancy, "can expect to live long enough to be a problem not only for their children, but for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, too."

Optional retirement, freed of the arbitrary restraints of age, is apt to be taken in instalments: a bit of play, perhaps a spot of volunteer do-goodery—and just enough work to keep the economy from collapsing upon their frantically toiling children. M



HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Royal weddings—and the rules of succession—are setting new traditions

THE FAIRY tale of marrying a handsome prince and living in a castle is alive and well. And don't worry about a lack of royal blood. That's passé: the last time a princess attained the throne through marriage was when Anne Marie of Denmark wed the now-exiled King Constantine II of Greece in 1964. This month's weddings of two rather attractive crown princes of Europe to commoners follow the new tradition. The first to the altar was Prince Frederik of Denmark, who married Australian Mary Donaldson on May 14 in Copenhagen. Now, on May 22, Prince Felipe of Spain marries TV host Letizia Ortiz in Madrid. Because the two crown princes are related (they both have the same aunt, Anne Marie of Greece), it will be a bit of a royal road tour, with many guests attending both weddings and the accompanying dinners, receptions and galas.

But the fantasy of marrying the heir to the throne is in for some adjustments—because Europe will soon have a lot of heiresses instead of heirs. In the last two decades, four out of Europe's 10 monarchies have changed to a "first born" succession system: the first child, regardless of sex, inherits the throne and the castles. In those four countries that first child to benefit from the new rule is a girl: Victoria of Sweden, Amalia of the Netherlands, Ingrid of Norway and Elisabeth of Belgium. (The Norwegian situation illustrates the change: Haakon Magnus, the crown prince, who married commoner Mette-Marit Tjessem Høiby in 2001, will become king under the old "males first" system, but his new-born daughter Ingrid will one day be queen under the new first-born system.)

In Denmark and Spain, both with a males-first system, there is currently debate about changing the rules. And while there has been similar talk in Britain, some things are certain: William's position is secure—and one day there will be another fairy tale wedding. M



1. DENMARK
Mary and Frederik on their wedding day



2. SPAIN
Felipe and Letizia

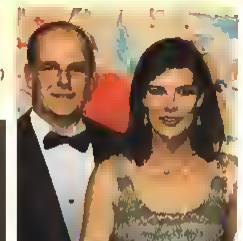


3. NETHERLANDS
Willem-Alexander with Amalia

MONARCH:
Queen Beatrix (b. 1938)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
First-born
HEIRS:
1. Prince Willem-Alexander (b. 1967)
2. Princess Amalia (b. 2003)



4. LUXEMBOURG
Guillaume

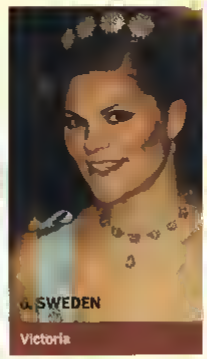


5. MONACO
Albert and Caroline

MONARCH:
Grand Duke Henri (b. 1955)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
Males first
HEIRS:
1. Prince Guillaume (b. 1981)
2. Prince Felix (b. 1984)

MONARCH:
Prince Rainier III (b. 1923)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
Males first
HEIRS:
1. Prince Albert (b. 1958)
2. Princess Caroline (b. 1957)

MONARCH:
Queen Margarethe II (b. 1940)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
Males first
HEIRS:
1. Prince Frederik (b. 1968)
2. Prince Joachim (b. 1969)



6. SWEDEN
Victoria

MONARCH:
King Carl XVI Gustaf (b. 1946)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
First-born
HEIRS:
1. Princess Victoria (b. 1977)
2. Prince Carl Philip (b. 1979)

MONARCH:
King Juan Carlos (b. 1938)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
Males first
HEIRS:
1. Prince Felipe (b. 1968)
2. Infanta Elena (b. 1963)



7. BELGIUM
Elisabeth and Philippe

MONARCH:
King Albert II (b. 1934)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
First-born
HEIRS:
1. Prince Philippe (b. 1960)
2. Princess Elisabeth (b. 2001)



8. NORWAY
Haakon, Mette-Marit with Ingrid

MONARCH:
King Harald V (b. 1937)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
First-born
HEIRS:
1. Prince Haakon Magnus (b. 1973)
2. Princess Ingrid (b. 2004)



9. BRITAIN
Charles and William

MONARCH:
Queen Elizabeth II (b. 1926)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
Males first
HEIRS:
1. Prince Charles (b. 1948)
2. Prince William (b. 1982)



10. LIECHTENSTEIN
Alois

MONARCH:
Prince Hans-Adam II (b. 1945)
SUCCESSION STYLE:
Males only
HEIRS:
1. Prince Alois (b. 1968)
2. Prince Joseph (b. 1995)

EUROPEAN CROWNS



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: SVEN MACKSTRANN/AFP/GETTY; DANI CARDONA/REUTERS; ACTION PRESS/CP; REUTER RAYMOND/CORBIS SYGMA; ERIC GUILLARD/REUTERS; MICHAEL DALDER/REUTERS; FRANCOIS LENOIR/REUTERS; RICHARDSEN/SCANPIX/REUTERS; RUBEN SPRICH/REUTERS; SVEN BEHAM/KEYSTONE/AP

STALKED BY A CYBERBULLY

Cellphones and the Net are kids' social lifelines. They can also be their social death.

AMY BOUCHER learned early how mean kids can be. In elementary school, she was taller than the rest of the girls and that made her an easy target for ridicule. Often teased and excluded, the Montreal teen would come home and escape into her drawings or play on the computer. So when she discovered a Web site about art where she could chat with others, it gave her a sense of belonging and, more importantly, acceptance.

But all that changed when she got into a spat with another girl on the site over an unanswered e-mail. Amy tried to make up, but the girl rebuffed her attempts, and for the next three years made her the object of an on-line bullying campaign that drove Amy to tears and eventually to depression. A posse of girls would taunt her over e-mail or sign onto the site under her name before launching attacks on other members that she would then be blamed for. "I kept thinking, 'What's wrong with me?'" says Amy, now a chatty 15 year-old. "Why does everybody hate me?"



Bullying, whether it occurs in the schoolyard or on-line, is at its core about power and control. And today, when kids cruise around the Internet the way they do around their neighbourhood, getting slammed on a Web site can be just as bruising as getting slammed against a playground wall. Through e-mail or over cellphones, tormentors can get right into victims' homes, harassing them while their parents sit in the next room. It's called cyberbullying and, for both parents and teachers, it's a growing concern. According to the Media Awareness Network, an Ottawa-based non-profit group that monitors on-line activity, a quarter of young Canadian Internet users report having received material that said hateful things about others. These can be threats, gossip—or worse. Groups sometimes gang up on one student, bombarding them with "flame" e-mails or infecting their computer with viruses. One jilted boyfriend posted his ex's personal information on porn sites, while a girl who visited Toronto became the subject of a rumour that she had SARS.

On-line abuse drove Boucher to tears. 'I thought, why does everyone hate me?'

"It's so far beyond the passing of notes," says Jan Sippel, coordinator of abuse prevention at the Vancouver School Board. "This bullying gives kids the same feelings of powerlessness and hopelessness as the traditional form."

Cyberbullies' weapons of choice are e-mail, cellphones that can send text messages and instant messaging programs that allow users to chat electronically in real time. With IM

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINNE MUSCH

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Edited by Ann Dowsett Johnston



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ROGERS

chat the No 1 on-line activity among kids, practised by some 60 per cent, it's a natural medium for abuse. Some bullies post slurs on Web sites where kids congregate, or on personal on-line journals, called Weblogs. In a macabre twist on the *American Idol* craze, sites have emerged where students vote on their school's biggest geek or sluttiest girl. "Who here hates teressa as much as i do," asks a student with the screen name silentgothichell on a site called *Schoolscandals2.com*. "She is such a f***ing poser who thinks she is so kewl and awesome and pretty and she is DEFFINATLY NOT!" "Yeah," responds Do_a_crazydance. "She's freaken ugly."

Bill Belsey, a father and education consultant in Cochrane, Alta., who runs Web sites about bullying, has studied the growing phenomenon of cyberbullying and says the anonymity of the Internet emboldens the culprits. "When kids feel there aren't consequences for the communications, they take liberties," says Belsey, whose sites, *bullying.org* and *cyberbullying.ca*, receive nearly a million hits a month. Kids and parents write in to the sites about their own experiences. "[My daughter] set up a Web site for herself and asked people to sign her guest book," writes one anonymous mother. "A gaggle of girls started signing it, telling my daughter she should just die and that everyone hates her."

Perhaps the most famous victim of cyberbullying is Ghyslain Raza, the 15 year-old boy from Trois Rivières, Que., who became an unwilling celebrity when a film he made of himself emulating a *Star Wars* fight scene was posted on the Internet by some classmates. Millions downloaded the two-minute clip and the media dubbed him the "*Star Wars* kid." He was so humiliated he sought counselling, and his family has launched a lawsuit against his tormentors.

The growing number and severity of cyberbullying incidents are leading educators and the authorities to start taking action. Calgary police recently issued a warning about such electronic activities, pointing out that written death threats are a crime. In Vancouver, a group of Grade 7 girls were caught in a game where they'd vote via instant messaging who should be their next target for ostracism. "We've had quite a number of these incidents," says Sippel of the Vancouver School Board, who has organized about a dozen parent meetings about cyberbullying. But schools are having trouble addressing the issue because much of the abuse occurs outside the classroom. "Bullying is taken very seriously," says Tamara Grealis Ellam, head of guidance at Toronto's Woburn Collegiate Institute. "But unfortunately, with cyberbullying, you need the student to come forward and tell you."

Part of the problem in combatting cyberbullying, say experts, is that parents and kids relate to technology very differently. Most adults approach computers as practical tools, while for kids the Internet is a lifeline to their peer group. "Cyberbullying is practically subterranean because it lives in the world of young people," says Belsey. "Kids know there is a gap in the understanding of technology between themselves and their parents, and their fear is not only that the parents' response may make the bullying worse, but that the adults will take the technology away."

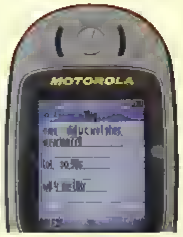
That was Anne Boucher's first impulse. Amy's mother saw her daughter's depression and urged her to stop going to the art Web site. But Amy still had friends there, people with whom she had been communicating for years. And her drawing was getting really good (one work sold for $300 at an on line auction). "She'd get up the next morning and she would still be feeling down and then she'd go to the place where she felt comfortable and she'd get attacked again," says Anne. "I kept telling her not to go back, but it was her little community." Amy eventually left the site for awhile, and when she went back, the bullying stopped.

Belsey says that parents, teachers and the police need to meet cyberbullying head on. And to some degree, that is happening. Belsey has contacted more than 40 schools across the country, asking them to participate in a cyberbullying survey. And at the end of the month, he will speak at a conference for educational administrators. This is just a start, he says, but "people are beginning to understand the genie is out of the bottle." M

With Kathryn Borel

CYBERBULLYING is subterranean because young people fear that parents will take their technology away

HOW TO CYBERBULLY-PROOF YOUR KIDS



TALK TO THEM about the places they go on-line and whom they meet there. Many instant-messaging programs can save chat transcripts. (MSN Messenger can be set to automatically archive conversations.)

DON'T PUT COMPUTERS in young kids' bedrooms. If the machine is somewhere in the open, such as the kitchen or the family room, you can more easily monitor what your children are posting on the Web, including their personal Weblogs where they tend to talk about what goes on in their lives.

TELL YOUR KIDS TO BLOCK unknown or unwelcome correspondents from their messenger programs. They should demand that those requesting to be added to their contact lists e-mail first so their identities can be more clearly established. It's also possible to block computers' IP addresses, so messages from particular machines, no matter what e-mail address is used, get automatically trashed.

TELL KIDS NEVER TO RESPOND to a cyberbully's message. That's what bullies want; a reaction constitutes a victory.

CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL, local police or your Internet service provider if the bullying is severe. It's a criminal offence to threaten another person.

WARN YOUR KIDS that they should never give out their log-in codes or passwords to others, even their best buddies. There are many cases of one friend releasing another's private info over the Internet.

DON'T FREAK OUT. The last thing children want is to have their computer or cellphone taken away, and if they think that will happen, they won't talk about the problems. M.S



ROMANCING THE GAME

The World Series of Poker brings out the glitz and the cash. But it's the local games that bring out the thrill.

I'M A FISH. I wish I could tell stories of how I bluffed out a big player who was sitting on the button holding American Airlines after a K K-J flop—but I can't, because I'm just a fish (a new player) who's managed to pick up some lingo. Like millions of others, I was glued to the TV when Chris Moneymaker (yes, that's his real name) won the World Series of Poker last year. The 27-year old accountant from Tennessee, who until then had played largely on-line, worked his way through the pros in Las Vegas, betting more money on a single hand than I make in three years of work. I was electrified just watching him: all that cash and that action, everything resting on a moment's decision. "This is the sonic boom of poker," a WSOP spokesman declared after Moneymaker walked away with the US$2.5 million jackpot. "This means anyone in their home can become a poker player."

The man turned out to be right. The face of poker has changed dramatically, the grinders and rounders of *The Cincinnati Kid* era now joined by soccer moms, urban hipsters and the Hollywood A-list. Internet poker sites are legion—many devoted just to female players, whether pro or amateur—and two major televised tournaments are drawing strong ratings: the World Poker Tour, a kind of PGA of cards spiced up with celebrity games, and the World Series of Poker, the classic that takes place every May in Vegas at Binnion's Horseshoe Casino, culminating in the week-long "main event" that starts May 22. All the pros go to the World Series, and now more and more wannabes, too. The 2003 WSOP was the largest ever, and this year there are at least 1,500 entries, up 80 per cent.

FOR serious players like Paul, poker is a physical game. He often plays 10 or 15 hours. His record: 48 hours straight.

While I may be new to poker, cards have always given me a rush. At age 7, my grandfather and I played gin rummy in his bedroom. He'd let me deal—which always made me feel tough—and give me sips of his Molson Golden while chiding me for my ridiculous attempts at cheating. He told me to never chase cards. I often begged him to play poker with me—five card stud was big in the westerns I was watching—but he wouldn't do it. "To play poker you need money," he'd say, "because to play poker you need to bet." I did get him to play once, for matches, but after my second nonsense raise he refused to play again. What he was trying to teach me is that poker is about serious stuff: money, self-control, nerve—things a man needs to learn.

Now, 25 years later, I play the game in a basement storeroom of a downtown Toronto bar with a friendly but competitive bunch of guys for whom poker is an integral part of life, like drinking espresso or watching girls. The room is a bunker with unfinished concrete walls and floor. We play on a wonky table with a green felt top worn thin from

ILLUSTRATION BY JILLIAN TAMAKI



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MACLEAN'S SHEENA'S PLACE ROGERS The Altamira Charity Challenge

years of use. The game is Texas hold 'em, just like in the World Series, but we don't play for big money: the buy-in is usually $50. Like shinny, this game has the form of the pro game that we all watch on TV, and it can be rough, but it's mostly for fun.

There is a guy who hangs out upstairs at the bar but doesn't play with us. Unlike me, Paul is no fish. He's in his early 30s and has been playing poker for almost a decade. He has gone to Vegas hoping to win his way into the final rounds of the World Series. For him, the game is a life commitment that requires study and playing every day. He approaches it like a Zen master. "Poker is a game of people played with cards, and the score is kept with money," he told me the other day. "If you want to be good at it, you have to really know yourself. Say you're good at making people laugh. You make guys at the table laugh and maybe get them off their game, or maybe if you're losing they don't take it to you as hard."

For serious players like Paul, poker is a physical game. He often plays 10 or 15 hours. Just last week, he played 48 hours straight—his personal record—two days of sitting in a smoky room, living on the casino diet of coffee and cigarettes, reluctant to take even a bathroom break in case he missed some serious action. At that point poker becomes as much an endurance sport as a game of chance. "Serious players fight against luck," says Paul. "Luck comes in streaks, and sure, you ride out a streak when you're on one. But I'll sit through lots of hands losing my blinds [antes] before I get cards I can play or see some action I can take advantage of. That's why you learn about the game. You have to know people and be able to read them. I've taken a whole table without really looking at my cards because I can feel I've got those guys, and that isn't luck. It's my experience that tells me they've got nothing. Or they're afraid."

I can see what he means even in our game. The excitement is in the action—the betting, the bravado of bluffing, the showdowns with players raising and re-raising. Texas hold 'em can be a fast game. On a good night, the bets stack up fast and the chips whiz around the table. Guys lose and keep losing, then come back and take the chip lead in a couple of hands. The guy who had the juice is suddenly down and out. Sometimes I get that beautiful moment when everything I've learned about the game comes together and I can feel it's on, as if God Himself is reaching down and making my cards *the cards*, when I know that no matter what anybody else at the table has I'm going to win this hand. Real people, real smoke in my eyes and real money, not some ticker in the corner of a computer screen. Paul, for one, has no time for Internet poker. "It's kind of like on-line porn. It's what you do when you play in front of people that counts. The rest is just fantasy," he says, adding, "What the popularity of the game and on-line poker have done is create a lot of dead money, easy pickings for the more serious players."

As my grandfather knew, you need money to play poker because that makes it important. But money isn't the point. The point is taking your hard-earned cash, this thing that measures our lives and time, then standing up and putting it on the line. In the post-boom era, when money has real value again, the thrill lies in risking what we all fight to get and keep, and doing it without a safety net. It gives you complete focus. "The only time I'm relaxed is when I'm playing," says Paul. "The world fades away and I'm not thinking of anything else, just the cards, the chips and the other players. It's the place I like the best to be—even when I'm losing."

Today, anybody can watch poker on TV, then go and play—and maybe even win. And then, like Moneymaker, you could eventually find yourself beating the pros and playing for real money. For most of us, however, poker is simply a chance to live deliberately in a place that's just outside our everyday lives and worries, an exciting place where we can shuffle off the selves we have become and try to live, even for a little while, as the selves we want to be.

"Your grandfather was right," Paul told me. "Never chase cards, for two reasons: what you get might not be what you need, and what you need is not what you want." I don't entirely understand this, but it sounds like something a man should know. M

jemal hamilton@macleans.rogers.com





STAR PLAYERS

It wouldn't be a trend without celebrities riding the bandwagon. Here are a few who regularly ante up to the poker table.

David Schwimmer: With *Friends* wrapped up, "Ross" has more time for the poker parties he likes to host.

Tobey Maguire, Leonardo DiCaprio The young Hollywood A-list buddies are often seen at the tables together.

Ben Affleck: His passion for poker is such that he's known to lose US$150,000 in a night—and then come back for more.

Whoopi Goldberg. Reportedly runs a weekly game on the set of her NBC sitcom, *Whoopi*; cast and crew watch poker on TV during breaks.

Lou Diamond Phillips: *La Bamba* star loves the game so much he longs to reprise Steve McQueen's role in *The Cincinnati Kid*.

James Woods: Enjoys high stakes, plays in $5,000 buy-in games.

Nicole Sullivan: Co-star of the sitcom *The King of Queens* won the Celebrity Poker Showdown last January. Winning hand? You guessed it, a pair of queens.

JOHN INTINI

ARE YOU A RAILBIRD OR A MANIAC?

Now that poker lingo is on the tube, it's only a matter of time before it invades the vernacular. A few examples:

American Airlines—A pair of aces.

Walking Sticks—A pair of sevens.

Broomcorn's Uncle—Someone who keeps anteing up until he goes broke.

Draw Dead—Trying to make a hand that, even if successful, will not win the pot (e.g. drawing to make a flush when your opponent has a full house).

Gut Shot—To draw an inside straight.

The Flop—First three common cards in games such as Texas hold 'em.

Sitting on the Button—Having the dealer's position where you bet last.

Limper—The first to call a bet.

Maniac—An overly aggressive player, who usually ends up losing. But beware those who just pretend to be maniacs: their wild play is a ploy to confuse.

Railbird—A non-playing spectator who enjoys watching the action. J.I

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP (TOP); KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE

2:01AM CHECK INTO HOTEL 2:11AM CHECK INTO INTERNET 2:26AM WORM ENTERS ROOM 536 2:28AM WORM EVACUATED BY NETWORK 2:32AM ORDER GRILLED CHEESE AND FRIES 2:35AM DOZE OFF

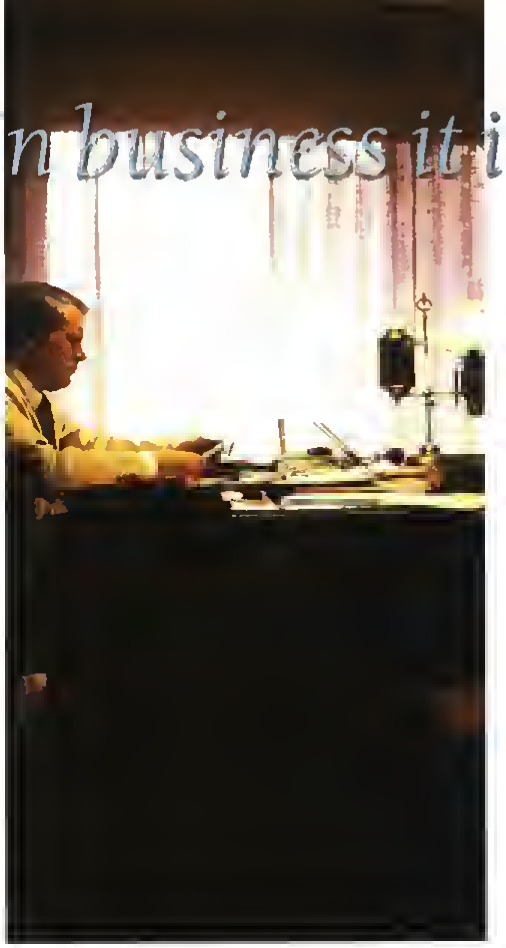
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Alan Scarfe's Wiebo is a committed environmentalist who got carried away

NOT QUITE THE WIEBO I RECALL

In this drama he's more crusader than saboteur

"In a lot of ways, I do not blame him. I would certainly draw the line at killing and I'm sure so would he. But at a certain point, when you've been trodden on hard enough, you do have to fight back."

—actor Alan Scarfe, speaking of Wiebo Ludwig, whom he portrays in the TV movie *Burn: The Robert Wraight Story*

I REMEMBER standing by the police barricade outside Wiebo Ludwig's Trickle Creek farm, near Hythe, Alta., in June 1999. Along with other reporters, I was there to question Ludwig about the fatal shooting of 16-year-old Karman Willis on the property two days earlier. Willis was one of eight local teenagers out on an apparent joyride at 4 a.m. The surviving teens said they were pulling away when three shots rang out, one of them hitting the girl in the chest. Ludwig, then free on bail and facing multiple charges related to vandalism and explosions at local oil fields, told us the teens were drunk and posed a threat to his four daughters who were camped outside. While claiming to be "sad" for the dead girl's parents, Ludwig said they needed to reflect on why Karman was out with "wild young teenagers." He then alluded to his long battle with the oil industry over claims that sour gas emissions from nearby wells had led to afflictions including the stillborn death of his grandson. "If anyone pulled the trigger," he said, "it was the oil industry that started the controversy and the government which refused to delve into it before it got out of hand."

LUDWIG was a petty tyrant, and Wraight was called 'a tainted witness' but the show heaps blame on oil companies instead

That's the Wiebo I observed and interviewed on several occasions. Arrogant. Self-righteous. Manipulative. Within days, Ludwig would concede that "most likely" the fatal shots were fired by someone at the commune-style farm at Trickle Creek, where the discredited Christian Reformed minister reigned as patriarch. But he said he had no idea who that might be. With scant co-operation from Ludwig or his clan, the RCMP investigation was stymied, and no charges have ever been laid in Karman's death.

I do see glimpses of the real Wiebo in the two-hour docudrama *Burn*, which CTV is airing on May 25. He is shown as a bully who believes women must submit to the will of husbands and fathers. But this is overshadowed by a storyline designed to convince us that Ludwig's cause—if not always his means—is just. And Scarfe, who looks and sounds eerily like Ludwig, delivers such a compelling performance that I fear uninformed viewers will come away thinking Ludwig is simply a committed environmentalist who got carried away, rather than the petty tyrant he is.

Burn tells the story of Robert Wraight, a Ludwig confidante who became a police informant after Ludwig turned increasingly violent. Like Wiebo, Wraight (played by Jonathan Scarfe, son of Alan) blamed the oil industry for everything, including his daughter's asthma. "People are dying—babies!" he declares. There are, in fact, serious and legitimate questions to be raised about the potential health risks of sour gas emissions. But *Burn* asks us to simply accept, on faith, that the oil companies are culpable.

The show's producers say they focused on Wraight because they found him a more sympathetic character than Ludwig. They certainly strain to depict him as a salt-of-the-earth family man used and abused by Ludwig and the police alike. Tellingly, they barely deal with his role at the trial that saw Ludwig convicted on five of 14 charges and sent to jail for 28 months (he served nearly 19). Small wonder. At the real thing, the presiding judge described Wraight as a "tainted witness" because he was a paid police informant who also tried to convince an oil company to buy his property in exchange for getting the goods on Ludwig. The judge added that Wraight seemed incapable of giving a straight answer to any question.

Burn does deal with Karman's shooting in a final scene, but it seems almost an afterthought. My deepest misgiving about this "fact-based" movie? I suspect Ludwig, now free and back at Trickle Creek, will be delighted by it, while Karman's family will be appalled. Where's the justice in that? M

COURTESY OF CTV



MAGIC RED-CARPET RIDES

Fairy tales collide with politics in Cannes' enchanted kingdom

BRAD IS ON the beach. Bronzed and buffed, his hair a golden mane, he looks like a cross between a Greek god and a sun-bleached surfer. As Achilles, the not-quite-invincible warrior who's brought to heel in *Troy*, he's leading a vast armada that resembles a sword-and-sandal version of the D-Day landing. "Waiting beyond that beach—immortality!" shouts Achilles. "Take it! It's yours!"

After *Troy*'s premiere, Brad Pitt is holding court just steps away from another fabled Mediterranean beach—at a press conference in Cannes. Achilles is now sporting a Marine crewcut, a sleek grey suit and a pair of sunglasses tucked in the cleavage of a crisp white shirt. Noting that *Troy* is riddled with references to immortality, that ancient version of celebrity, I ask Pitt if he ever wonders how long his own name, and face, will be remembered. Pitt (in town with wife Jennifer Aniston) smiles and offers an anecdote. When he heard that Julie Christie, the legendary star of *Doctor Zhivago*, would play a cameo in *Troy*, he told some younger actors how thrilled he was. "Someone said, 'Who's Julie Christie?' I think the point is, it's *all* going down."

While stardust may, in the end, be nothing more than dust, the Cannes International Film Festival is one place where the Hollywood dream is incarnated with Olympian grandeur. Sure, the Oscars are the big event, the Super Bowl of movies, but it's such a secular ritual, and so American. Cannes is the high altar of world cinema, where each night thousands of French fans, avid pilgrims, gather to watch the stars climb a red-carpet stairway to heaven. And that's exactly how Quentin Tarantino, this year's president of the jury, described it. "Cannes is heaven," he said. "It's a place where dreams come true." Especially his own. His first dream was just to go there, he said, which he did with his first film, *Reservoir Dogs*, in 1992. Then he dreamed of winning the Palme d'Or, which he did with *Pulp Fiction* in 1994. "The next dream was to be on the jury. And here I am president of the jury, all right! So if there's another level above heaven, that's where I'm at!"

With his three wishes fulfilled, Hollywood's frog prince, the former video store clerk, proved anyone can be *président*. And like Cannes itself, he straddles the worlds of Hollywood and international cinema with promiscuity. Since *Pulp Fiction*, American movies have had trouble getting much respect on the Croisette. But this year marks an *entente cordiale*, with the studios using the festival to launch spring blockbusters such as *Troy*—and *Shrek 2* (one of 19 features in official competition).



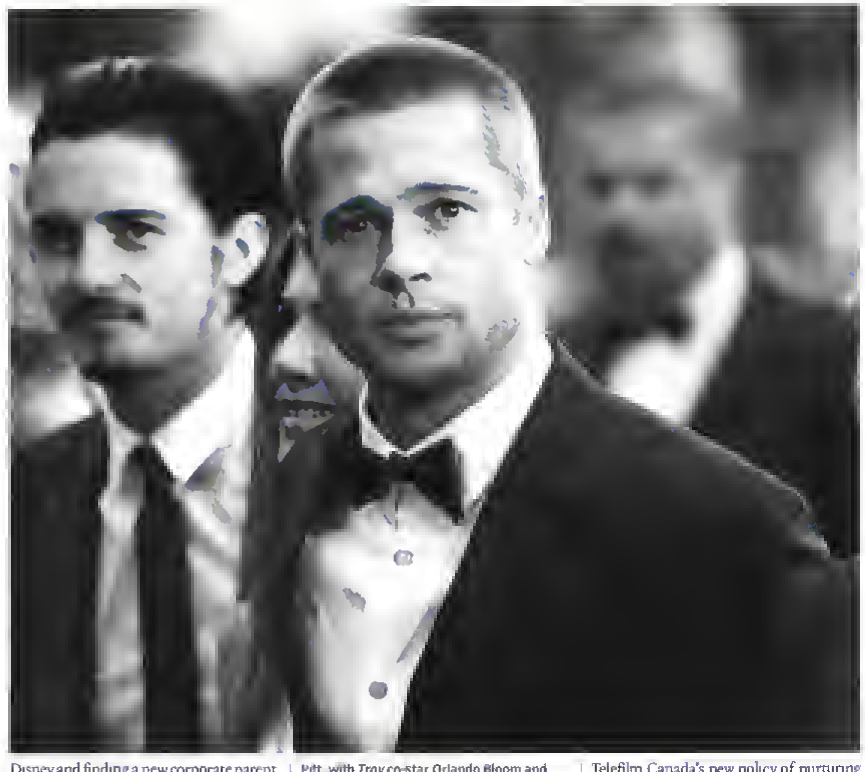
Benoit Poelvoorde (left), Tarantino, Sofia Coppola, Emmanuelle Béart face the cameras

Among the auteur heavyweights in the program—Jean-Luc Godard (*Notre Musique*), Wong Kar-wai (*2046*), Zhang Yimou (*House of Flying Daggers*), Abbas Kiarostami (*Five*) and Emir Kusturica (*Life is a Miracle*)—these Hollywood confections serve as guilty pleasures. *Troy*'s bombastic spectacle is a throwback, an old-fashioned warrior epic without a shred of irony. Director Wolfgang Petersen plays fast and loose with Homer's *Iliad*. But Pitt's gleaming physique is a special effect all its own, and Peter O'Toole quietly steals the movie with blue-eyed intensity as Troy's tragic king.

By contrast, *Shrek 2* makes child's play of deconstruction. At its heart is a sentimental romance, as the ogre Shrek (again voiced by Mike Myers) and his princess bride (Cameron Diaz) leave the swamp for her parents' inhospitable kingdom. But the cliché is wrapped in a maze of post-modern wit—Joan Rivers on the red carpet of a royal wedding, a *COPS*-like reality show called *KNIGHTS*, Pinocchio rappelling into a dungeon to the beat of *Mission: Impossible*, and a wicked fairy godmother who barks, "It's time you stopped living in a fairy tale."

The *Shrek* franchise, powered by DreamWorks honcho and Disney defector Jeffrey Katzenberg, delights in satirical jabs at the Magic Kingdom. But another American entry at Cannes, Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*, has provoked a more incendiary assault on Disney. In his new documentary, Moore—who premiered the Oscar-winning *Bowling for Columbine* in Cannes two years ago—takes a controversial look at Sept. 11, pointing a finger at oil-lubricated links between the Bush White House and the Saudi royal family. Disney has blocked Miramax, its subsidiary, from releasing the film and told Moore he's free to find another distributor. Moore claims that chief Mouseketeer Michael Eisner is afraid Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, George's brother, will retaliate by withdrawing tax breaks and incentives enjoyed by Disney in the state.

Whatever Disney's motives—to protect its hide or muzzle a controversial filmmaker—Eisner couldn't have handed Moore better publicity if he'd burned him in effigy on the Croisette. Just beneath all the sacrosanct ritual in Cannes, politics is always waiting to erupt. And in the early days of the festival, there was talk of Miramax, the original indie boutique, breaking from Disney and finding a new corporate parent.



Pitt with *Troy* co-star Orlando Bloom and Aniston, is ambassador from Hollywood

Hollywood's ever-tightening yoke on the international film market is always a hot topic in Cannes. At the jury press conference, a Taiwan journalist offered a plaintive lament for the disappearance of her country's film industry. Tarantino countered by saying, "It's fun to demonize Hollywood, but a country cannot exist on auteur films. People go to films to see stars. The three countries in the world that have a sustainable film industry—the U.S., India and Hong Kong—all have star systems."

Which brings poor Canada to mind. Last year there were four Canadian features in Cannes, including the Oscar-nominated co-production *The Triplets of Belleville*, and Denys Arcand's Oscar-winning triumph, *The Barbarian Invasions*. This year we have just one feature in competition—*Clean*, a co-production by French director Olivier Assayas starring Nick Nolte, Maggie Cheung and Don McKellar. There's also a National Film Board animation short, *Accordeon*. Two other NFB shorts, and *CQ2*, a dramatic Canada-France co-production by Quebec's Carole Laure, were selected for the International Critics' Week, a sidebar program, as well *What Remains of Us*, an NFB documentary about Tibet. For his small role in *Clean*, McKellar finds himself in the curious position of being the biggest Canadian name in Cannes (not counting Myers). And with Telefilm Canada's new policy of nurturing pop entertainment at the expense of serious cinema, he warns, Canadian content in Cannes may soon be extinct.

In Tarantino's diatribe about the need for star systems, he spoke with nostalgia about the films of the '60s. In May '68, a wave of strikes shut down the Cannes festival, and as student demonstrators ripped up cobblestones, the slogan du jour was *sous les pavés, la plage* (under the paving stones, the beach). Headlining a recent story about striking cultural workers, a French film magazine offered a variation: "beneath the pavement, the red carpet." Last week the strikers donned tuxedos and climbed the red carpet, with placards. In the Magic Kingdom of Cannes, heaven can be elusive. M

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEORGE PIMENTEL



SHAW'S GAMBLE

Intent on re-energizing itself, the festival adds Canuck plays and fresh approaches

LAST YEAR Jackie Maxwell's office overlooked the idyllic streets of Niagara-on the Lake. This year the head of Ontario's Shaw Festival is working underground. That's where a move to the festival's new administrative and rehearsal centre has put her—in a basement level office with a view of the corridor. Her tasteful new digs are supposed to be an improvement. But the symbolism is hard to ignore. In Maxwell's inaugural 2003 season, the Shaw wracked up a $3-million deficit, putting it into a hole it will take years to climb out of. Now, as the new season opens, the pressure on the artistic director is immense. No one's blaming her for last season's debacle—it would have taken superhuman intervention to ward off the multiple plagues of SARS, the Iraq war, the West Nile virus and a major power black out that knocked down the 2003 attendance by a critical 32,500. But another dip into the red would cast a deep shadow over her tenure at the $24.4-million festival.

Today, Maxwell recalls her year from hell with a visible shudder. "The audience numbers fell so early and so fast that I knew we were in for it." The setback couldn't have come at a worse time for an artistic director bent on opening new horizons. Under Maxwell's immensely successful predecessor, Christopher Newton, the Shaw had a quasi-English feel, thanks to Newton's penchant for fleshing out the festival's staple of plays by George Bernard Shaw with lost treasures of British drama. In 2003, Maxwell tried for a more Canadian flavour. She mounted a new translation of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* by Toronto writer Susan Coyne as well as *The Coronation Voyage*, a contemporary play by Quebec dramatist Michel Marc Bouchard.

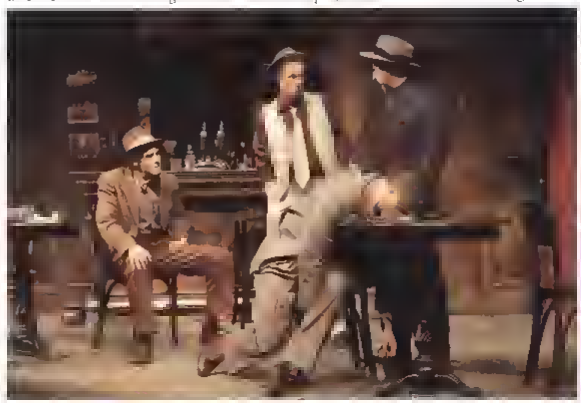
It's a mark of how conservative the Shaw Festival is that putting on Canadian plays is considered a risk. "I was prepared for serious brickbats," Maxwell, 48, says now of *The Coronation Voyage*. "I thought I'd have letters from a lot of upset people. But the reaction was quite the opposite. There was lots of positive mail. People stopped me in the street and said, 'Thank you for putting our voice up on that stage.'" And even though the play did not do well attendance-wise, Maxwell puts an optimistic spin on its reception. "I think our core audience is far more flexible and open-minded than I had thought."

The darker side of *Pygmalion*, starring Mezon and Rosling, comes into focus

The question is whether there are enough adventurous theatre-goers to keep Maxwell's experiments financially viable. She's gambling there are. This year Maxwell is putting on two Canadian plays with a solid track record of productions behind them, George F. Walker's 1988 drama, *Nothing Sacred*, and John Murrell's 1977 classic, *Waiting for the Parade*. The Murrell (June 4-Oct. 9) will be launched in the Royal George Theatre, whose small size (328 seats) minimizes the financial risk. The Walker will be staged in the cavernous Festival Theatre (869 seats), where the under-attended *Coronation Voyage* was also mounted. But *Nothing Sacred* will start late in the season for a relatively short run (Aug. 14-Oct. 30), which should reduce the damage if it flops. Meanwhile, Maxwell has filled most of the playbill at the Festival Theatre with proven winners, including Bernard Shaw's 1912 comedy *Pygmalion* (to Nov. 27) and the 1935 American farce *Three Men on a Horse* by John Cecil Holm and George Abbott (to Oct. 29).

So far, the new program seems successful. Ticket sales are well ahead of last year's, though they haven't returned to pre-SARS levels. Meanwhile, Maxwell goes on proclaiming her new vision. This year, her full-colour advertising brochure broke with two decades of good taste under Newton. The cover features a picture of actress Lisa Norton with her mouth wide open as if she were snarling at a dentist. Maxwell also talks of a new advertising campaign to lure patrons from nearby Toronto, many of whom have stayed away out of dislike for the festival's conservatism. Their perspective is out-of-date, insists Maxwell, who wants to "fracture" old approaches to theatre at the Shaw and make plays "crackle in a different way."

All this is reminiscent of Newton's attempts to sex up the festival when he arrived more than 20 years ago. The good burghers of Niagara-on the Lake responded to his first rather raw and risky productions by threatening to run him out of town. Newton eventually built a festival where artistic achievement had to cloak itself in a traditional theatricality. If the box office sags under Maxwell, she'll probably be forced to play a variation of the same old game.



Maxwell (right) balances proven winners like *Three Men on a Horse* with newer, riskier fare



'PEOPLE stopped me in the street,' recalls the artistic director, 'and said, "Thank you for putting our voice up on that stage."'

Certainly Maxwell's own solid production of Shaw's *Pygmalion* would not have been out of place during Newton's tenure. Professor Higgins and his recalcitrant pupil, Eliza Doolittle, are probably more famous now from the classic musical *My Fair Lady*, which takes its story and much of its dialogue from Shaw's original. In fact, there were moments in Maxwell's entertaining version when you expected the characters to burst into song. But the lightheartedness in this show comes with shadows. By refusing to sentimentalize the relationship between Higgins (Jim Mezon) and Eliza (Tara Rosling), Maxwell lays bare disturbing lines of power. Mezon's potent Higgins is not just a cranky teacher; he is a brutal bully. When we laugh at his cruel jibes at Eliza, we feel ourselves uncomfortably implicated in what amounts to his colonizing of another human being.

Newton makes a welcome return to the festival with his elegant version of Oscar Wilde's 1895 classic, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The production got some bad press thanks to a tepid opening night crowd who missed most of the jokes. As a result, several critics—who depend more on audience reaction than one might think—declared the show wasn't funny. Yet reportedly, audiences at the production's 24 preview performances had laughed a great deal. And in fact, this frothy gambit about upper class English dandies and their loves is for the most part—despite some thrown away famous lines—seductively amusing. Lady Bracknell, who is usually characterized as a withered crone, is given a delicious new twist by the perennially attractive Goldie Semple, who finds the comic gold in her character's high wilfulness.

Finally, *Three Men on a Horse* is directed by Jim Mezon with such witty inventiveness that it's likely to become the hit of the season. The story concerns a hapless writer of greeting card verses, Erwin Trowbridge (Kevin Bundy), who discovers he can pick the winners of horse races. The fun begins when he becomes the prisoner of several low-life types eager to exploit his talent. In a strong cast, the great discovery is Bundy who, whether chasing a lost hat or navigating the perils of Erwin's marriage, evokes the kind of helpless laughter that is good for the soul. M

COURTESY OF THE SHAW FESTIVAL

JAVA WITH JARMUSCH

With his new work, the rebel director offers a kind of big-screen symphony



He's revered for his idiosyncratic storytelling and independent spirit

JIM JARMUSCH is an enfant terrible of American cinema, known for such films as his Elvis elegy *Mystery Train*, the distended punk western *Dead Man*, and *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai*, in which Forest Whitaker plays a lumbering martial arts assassin who communicates only via carrier pigeon. Not exactly mainstream stuff. Still, the director's deft touch for idiosyncratic storytelling and his relentlessly independent spirit have earned him a devoted following of hipster urbanites and art film buffs. He finances his productions himself and works out complicated international licensing deals on his own, given the market's penchant for hit-makers like Brett Ratner (*Rush Hour*, *Red Dragon*) and things that go boom, that's probably a good thing. Things do not go boom in Jarmusch films, although relationships tend to fizzle and, very occasionally, people get shot. The director says that if he depended on the studios for money, chances are he'd never make another movie. He doesn't think like Hollywood. And if he wants his films done right, then he'll do them himself.

That's the attitude in his latest work, *Coffee and Cigarettes*, a collection of 11 black-and-white comic shorts that Jarmusch wrote and filmed sporadically over the past 17 years. He shot the first vignette for *Saturday Night Live* in 1986—"They closed the door to freelance filmmakers afterwards," he says with a wry grin—and completed the last in early 2003. The scenes often feature actors and musicians playing themselves, in each, the characters converse while drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes, hence the title. The film stars name-brand performers Bill Murray (in the short *Delirium*) and Cate Blanchett (in *Cousins*), and Jarmusch regulars Steve Buscemi (in *Twins*) and Roberto Benigni (in *Strange to Meet You*). There is little in the way of character development, and Jarmusch appears to eschew the boring old tropes of plot, climax and denouement. Instead, *Coffee and Cigarettes* is a commercial experiment in avant-garde filmmaking.

"I never think about what a film's going to look like when it's finished while I'm working on it," Jarmusch says in his deep Midwestern drawl. "I only care about what I'm doing right then, in that moment." As a result, the 51-year-old director claims not to know what, if anything, the film means, and demurs when asked to speculate. ("I have no idea what it's supposed to mean," he says unequivocally.) Instead he prefers to compare *Coffee and Cigarettes* to music. "It's an exercise in variations, like Bach's work, or Warhol's silkscreens, or even *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*." Since the film also stars piano man-of-doom Tom Waits and proto-punker Iggy Pop (in *Somewhere in California*), Detroit rock duo the White Stripes (in *Jack Shows Meg His Tesla Coil*), and Wu-Tang Clan rappers RZA and GZA (in *Delirium*), the analogy is appropriate. "Music is the most beautiful form of expression to me," the director says. "It doesn't matter whether it's punk or country or jazz, I love it. Well, except for show tunes. I never really liked them. When I went to my local record store the other day and asked for the new Ghostface Killah and Loretta Lynn records, they didn't even look at me twice."

It's not just the casting in *Coffee and Cigarettes* that reflects Jarmusch's musical bent. Terse dialogue between the characters builds from scene to scene like movements in a symphony. While repetitive phrases like "the world as a conductor of acoustical resonance," along with similar shots, string the segments together, their real cumulative effect is to create a sense of style. The mood, as per usual with Jarmusch, is gritty and cool, and like his other works, the film is slowly paced but doesn't bore. The atmospheric stuff is suited to actors who are more comfortable in front of a microphone than a camera.

'TOM WAITS plays a doctor too, and he's the last person I'd want giving me an emergency tracheotomy'

Jarmusch has made musicians into actors before, most notably hiring now deceased Clash front man Joe Strummer to play a drunken redneck in *Mystery Train*. "It's not done in a calculating way," he says. "It's more organic. I know them, and saw that they had acting potential." He's also responsible for *Year of the Horse*, a live concert film of Neil Young and Crazy Horse's 1996 tour. And he's obsessive about his soundtracks. The disc that accompanies *Coffee and Cigarettes* includes songs from the Stooges, Funkadelic and Gustav Mahler.

The roots of his eclectic tastes are in the





Stars including (from left) Pop, Waits and Meg and Jack White mock themselves

ALL TALK + NO ACTION = POETRY

Substance takes a backseat to style in writer-director Jim Jarmusch's eighth studio film, *Coffee and Cigarettes*, a collection of black-and-white short films about famous people who meet and argue while drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes. All are engaging, though several of the segments are as slow as a decaf morning. Musicians Tom Waits and Iggy Pop engage in a power struggle over a pack of Marlboro Reds; Cate Blanchett appears opposite herself as an arrogant movie star and her impoverished cousin; Wu-Tang Clan rappers RZA and GZA find Bill Murray, the new prince of indie film, working as a waiter in a coffee shop and worrying that he has lost his mind.

Though the famous players are entertaining to watch (as his conversation with Waits turns into a fight, the blood drains from Iggy's face), the lesser-known actors are the film's treasures. In the final scene two old men (Taylor Mead and Bill Rice) discuss "the saddest music in the world," and pretend that the coffee they're drinking is champagne. As they toast, strains of Mahler's *Ich bin der Welt Abhanden Gekommen* (I Have Lost Track of the World) are heard in the background. The effect is both puzzling and oddly beautiful—which applies to the film as a whole.

Though there aren't any plot twists or payoffs, Jarmusch's highly stylized stewardship is so confident that tossing out the normal conventions of cinema seems totally appropriate. You get the impression that the writer-director made *Coffee and Cigarettes* purely for the fun of it, which is perhaps why it works. It's not an art film masquerading as a mainstream one, nor the inverse. Instead it's a feature-length movie with segments that play like stanzas in a poem, albeit a very, very cool poem stained in nicotine. J.D.

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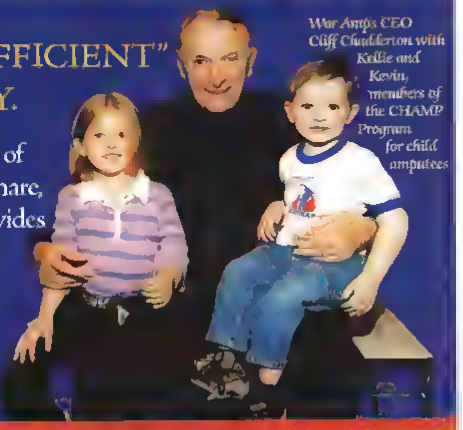
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'70s. Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Jarmusch moved to New York City in 1971 to study literature at Columbia University. After graduating, he studied film at New York University's School of the Arts, where he worked as a teaching assistant for Nicholas Ray (director of *Rebel Without a Cause*), and landed a job as a production assistant on Wim Wenders' *Lightning Over Water*. In the meantime he'd become a staple of New York's downtown art and punk scene, and played in a band called the Del Byzanteens, which he describes as "Middle-Eastern influenced." He hung out with future icons of cool like John Lurie (later of the Lounge Lizards, and star of Jarmusch's *Permanent Vacation* and *Stranger Than Paradise*). Even now, Jarmusch looks the part: tight black jeans, wallet chain, Motorhead T-shirt under his button-down. Only the names have changed in his films—they're more famous these days. "The actors were all into improvisation," he says, "which is good, because that's what *Coffee and Cigarettes* required. Plus they all knew these films would only take a day at most to film, with the exception of Cate Blanchett, who took two [because she plays both herself and her fictional cousin]. So it was a quick hit. I hope it'll strengthen the way I direct features."

'WHEN I asked at my local record store for the new Ghostface Killah and Loretta Lynn, they didn't look at me twice'

Though it might seem difficult to acquire smooth, unstilted performances from people playing themselves, Jarmusch says his actors were able to extemporize because the scenes required them to engage in some self-mockery. For instance, Blanchett plays a stuck-up movie star, as does Steve Coogan; the director says that neither is an accurate portrayal of the real person. Rather than feeding the celebrity ego machine, Jarmusch is, in part, sending it up, which he says made the filming fun. "There are a few elements that I repeat," he says. "The RZA plays a doctor, but he's not one in real life and I wouldn't let him near me if I was sick. Tom Waits plays a doctor too, and he's the last person I'd want giving me an emergency tracheotomy." M



WHAT'S THIS THINGAMAJIG?

When you buy a handyman's special, it helps if you're actually handy

AS I NEAR the second anniversary of the purchase of my first home, I sit in the living room, eyes wandering over a piece of property that is mine. Home ownership is one of those tangible things that lets you say with conviction, "I am an adult." I'd gotten the bug to begin "paying myself" after renting for 12 years. After careful scrutiny of my finances, assuring pre-approval for a mortgage, and dipping into long-saved RRSPs for a down payment, I began the tantalizing, but daunting task of looking for a house. Many people, my parents included, encouraged me to seek out a fixer-upper. After much search and many sleepless nights, I decided on a home near Haliburton, Ont., that truly was a handyman's special. Still, it was everything I wanted: an open-concept cedar house, it was on five acres of land and, above all, on a quiet road. After a fog of signing papers and authorizing more money than I could fathom, I took possession in May 2002 and moved in.

The previous owners had left the house in a time warp of early 1980s decor: it had faux brick panelling, layers of flowered wallpaper in the bedrooms and, my personal favourite, red carpet on the foyer walls. Nevertheless, I was confident I could turn it into a real showpiece, the sort of thing I'd often seen in magazines displaying gorgeous cottage country homes.

I had all the qualifications that a carpenter, plumber, interior decorator and electrician possess—if skill, experience and aptitude are not among them. Well, at least I had great vigour and enthusiasm. I began pulling down ceiling tiles with reckless abandon, steamed off layers of wallpaper, yanked up carpet from floor and wall, and generally became overwhelmed by the frightening number of projects on my radar.

With a rapidly draining bank account, and slightly irrational use of my credit cards, I began securing the materials necessary to start the transformation. At 32, I'm still single, but I got help from good friends and a kind, patient neighbour. And so I've spent many weekends hammering and sawing, learning from my constant mistakes and, unfailingly, asking skilled folks for assistance.

Since moving in, I've encountered bats, squirrels, mice and carpenter ants, and had a brief but exciting encounter with a raccoon who sliced through a screen door, rummaged through cupboards and knocked over plants in the middle of the night. In February 2003, an ice dam backed up under the eaves, allowing water to pour into the attic and down through the ceiling. After making a bad decision to climb alone on a steel roof and smash off 20 cm of ice (inadvertently breaking the satellite dish in the process), I smugly thought I'd fixed the problem. Two months later, however, I heard a loud "whoomp"—the ceiling, fully saturated with water, had collapsed. Three months of contractors parading through my house, and a modest insurance claim, put the room back to rights.



I have dug 14 holes in the lawn trying to find the septic tank, gotten electrocuted, cut through toilet drains, built walls with no right angles and been stuck for almost an hour in the attic amid several inches of Styrofoam. During a January deep freeze my house apparently heaved. I awoke in the morning, looked outside and saw my dog playing in the front yard. "Odd," I thought, "she should be inside." To my horror, I then realized that the front door had popped open during the night, freezing the pipes.

I have replaced the furnace, water pump and hot water tank. One cold day last winter, the plumber—who was working on the water lines for the third time—quietly informed me that it was a good idea for new homeowners to have a few thousand dollars in the bank for these unforeseen expenses. Had he seen my depleted bank statement? It was all I could do to pay him, let alone save any money. Even buying food and toothpaste seemed like discretionary spending when what I really needed were nails or a new caulking gun.

Recently, after quickly reading a book on plumbing, a friend and I undertook the onerous task of gutting and renovating the bathroom. After purchasing a bewildering array of plumbing supplies, consulting every employee in the hardware store, showering at work, having no toilet for a month, and cursing my decision to buy this house, I finally put down the tools and had a glorious shower in a partially finished, but functional bathroom.

Those few moments were extremely satisfying, and as I look around, I feel good about what I've accomplished. I was not prepared for the adventure I had freely signed up for, or the costs involved with a fixer-upper. However, I have learned an enormous amount about home ownership and, more important, about myself. I can now strap on a tool belt and begin a project, secure in the knowledge that if all else fails, the Yellow Pages are close by, the hardware store is open—and if I mess up a wall I can kick it down, because this house is mine. M

Bruce Middleton is house-proud near Haliburton, Ont. To comment: overtoyou@macleans.ca

ILLUSTRATION BY YAYO

BLINDED BY THE WHITE

ONE OF THE FUNNIER episodes of the lavishly mourned *Friends* featured Ross getting his teeth bleached—to, as it turned out, excess. They ended up glow-in-the-dark white, much hilarity ensued.

This was just one of the fears our testers confided when volunteering to try the latest in teeth-whitening technology. For, really, it's among the weirder manifestations of North American vanity: putting hydrogen peroxide in your mouth in hopes of looking like Cameron Diaz. Yet sporting a grin of perfect pearlies is now a status symbol for image-conscious consumers, and paying to get it is no more stigmatized than using hair colour or wearing contact lenses. Besides, it's not like you have to sign up for *Extreme Makeover*: just mosey down the drugstore aisle and you will find rows of strips, tubes and bottles that promise to give you rows of brilliant canines and incisors—for six months anyway; less if you smoke or drink lots of coffee.

Consumers are certainly biting: sales of over-the-counter teeth-whiteners have nearly tripled since 2001. When dentist-administered formulas and boutique brands aimed at celebrities are included, the sector is worth as much as US$2 billion a year. To gauge the products' effectiveness, we had four guinea pigs try a range of teeth whiteners, including strips, paint-on gel and even one involving an expensive visit to the dentist. We snapped before and after pictures so we could gauge the results objectively and remove the placebo effect on the tester.

THE VERDICT: It's a cliché, but no pain, no gain. Each tester experienced some level of discomfort and three said they wouldn't do it again. **OUR PICK:** Another cliché—you get what you pay for. The pricey dentist-administered kit was definitely worth the money, while the over-the-counter products offered marginal benefits. But if you can't afford the professional stuff, strips work better than the paint-on gel.



Cameron Diaz, with teeth like Chiclets, drives bleaching craze

	THE PROMISE	THE METHOD	THE GOOD, THE BAD	THE RESULT
 DAY WHITE EXCEL 3 ($350)	Dentist-issued product that claims to brighten teeth "eight full shades in seven to 10 days."	Dentist creates a form-fitting "tray" that you fill with gel and wear for a half hour twice daily. Dispenser case looks like a freebasing kit.	Teeth got so sensitive couldn't let ice cream come in contact with tender spots. Liberal use of Sensodyne toothpaste solved the problem.	Nice! Pearlies became whiter than Chiclets—but not glow-in-the-dark white.
 CREST WHITESTRIPS PREMIUM ($49.99)	"Take off 14 years in seven days." This is the accelerated version of the original 14 day product.	Twice a day place transparent strips covered in gel goop across outer surfaces of top and bottom teeth. Leave for 30 minutes.	Strips are innocuous-looking enough to wear in public as long as you don't speak. But they hurt! Teeth so sensitive at first, considered quitting.	Impressive. There was a noticeable difference (though the before and after photos were less definitive than tester's conviction).
 REXALL WHITENING WRAPS ($29.99)	"Visibly whiter teeth in 14 days." The wraps said to be lined with the same safe ingredient used by dentists.	Once a day, thick strips of gooey plastic are applied to teeth like Band-Aids. Fold back tabs keep them in place, provided teeth are towel-dry.	Bad things started happening: bleeding gums, itchy tongue, horrible morning breath. Chemical flavour was almost unbearable.	Fronts of teeth are definitely whiter, but the wraps don't get into the in-between gaps well and those are still yellow. They just stand out now.
 COLGATE SIMPLY WHITE NIGHT ($19.99)	"Clinically proven to whiten in 14 days!" Claims to remove even deep stains.	Every night before bed brush teeth and paint on the gel, tooth by tooth.	Simple to apply and the least expensive of the lot. Tastes horrible, though, and the first 15 seconds almost induced gagging. Made teeth quite sensitive, too.	Minimal difference, if any. Nobody noticed any change. Not worth the aggravation or the money.

TIP: Dentists warn that long-term effects of teeth-bleaching are unknown and call for more research. Most recommend that pregnant women, for example, avoid the treatments.

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Melyssa Ford is smart, articulate and just happens to have a renowned booty. In fact, the 24-year-old from Toronto has used her God-given assets—described by some as a "killer curve"—to become the reigning queen of hip hop and R&B music videos. "Doing the sexy, pretty girl thing is second nature," says Ford, who can fetch upwards of five figures for a two-day shoot. "It doesn't require any real effort and comes with a really large paycheque. But unlike most of the girls, I only do videos when I don't have a problem with the lyrical content of the song."

That said, Ford's big break came with a role in the extended and racier version of Sisqó's *Thong Song* (2000). While agreeing that the video's depiction of women was questionable, Ford defends her participation. "The premise was, there are girls on a catwalk in costume and stiletto heels—but when they turn around, the costume is gone, and only a thong remains. I refused to walk the catwalk."

The former York University psychology major, who was planning a career in forensics, enjoyed the music video experience and moved to New York City in 2000. Since then, she's worked with some of today's hottest stars—including **R. Kelly**, **Jay-Z** and most recently **Usher**. "I don't dance," says Ford, who released a DVD and calendar this year. "My role is to look pretty and play the love interest or sexual object of the artist."

But in a genre where misogyny and objectification are pretty much *de rigueur*, how far is she willing to take her craft? "Producers can push the envelope because we look a certain way and they want to exploit that," says Ford, who, unlike most background talent, has set rates for her services and runs her own company to control her image. "There are times when they bring me an outfit and I'll be like, 'Hell no!' There's a fine line between sexy and trashy. I'll toe the line, but won't be exploited."

Ford hopes to parlay her notoriety into a television or movie career. She had a small role on the TV series *Soul Food* in 2000 and recently hired an acting coach. It would be nice, she says, to debunk the widely held belief that video babes are just eye candy. "I've met girls who totally fit the stereotype," Ford admits, "but I've met others who sit quietly in the corner with university textbooks when the cameras are turned off." JOHN INTINI



Ford, a former York University student, is the queen of hip hop music videos

EARTH AIKENS

LISTINGS

This summer, folk, blues and roots music is taking over Canada—thanks to some impressive festival lineups. Here's a sampling:

The Stan Rogers Folk Festival
July 2-4
The international emphasis is on Cuban music, but the Canadian acts—including **Ron Sexsmith**, **Bruce Cockburn**, **Joel Plaskett** and newcomers **Joel Kroeker**, **Serena Ryder** and **Alana Levandoski**—are just as much of a draw.
www.stanfest.com
Canso, N.S.

Wasaga Beach Bluesfest
July 9-11
This inaugural event features blues legend **Taj Mahal** and Motown backing band **The Funk Brothers**. And while not exactly the bluesiest act, the **Tragically Hip** will wrap up the weekend's festivities.
www.wasagabeach bluesfest.com
Wasaga Beach, Ont.

Calgary Blues and Roots Festival
Aug. 12-15
Wilson Pickett, **Jonny Lang**, **Ralph Stanley** & **The Clinch Mountain Boys** and **David Byrne** are just some of the big names appearing at this second annual three-day extravaganza.
www.bluesandroots.com
Calgary



Music | They know how to make words sing

We recognize **Margaret Atwood** as a novelist, poet, literary critic and children's book author, but rock lyricist? Hard to believe. And yet, the Canadian wordsmith, along with 17 other popular fiction writers, recently donated lyrics to **One Ring Zero**—a quirky two-man Brooklyn band with a klezmer meets indie-rock sound. The duo, **Michael Hearst** and **Joshua Camp** (pictured above), gleefully set the authors' curious submissions to music, and the result is a new album entitled *As Smart As We Are*. A sampling of the literati rock follows. RYAN BIGGE



Frankenstein Monster Song, lyrics by **Margaret Atwood**
Doctor, doctor you're the one to blame / you put me together / you forgot the name / sew me a lady / sew me a lady / sew me a monster lady / just like me / I've got a dead man's heart and a dead man's brain / I look in the mirror and it's pure pain

The Ghost of Rita Gonzalo, lyrics by **Dave Eggers**
If I were a volcano / I would want you to jump / jump into my yellow / jump into my hot yellow / you person made of bones

Radio, lyrics by **Daniel Handler** (a.k.a. Lemony Snicket)
If I had a ceiling fan / for every time you made a plan / then told me you had plans and couldn't go / the hurricane would wreck my bed / and leave my shingle roof for dead / and my broken heart scattered to and fro

Celebrity | Pam's a Yank! Avril's too frank.



Pin-up **Pamela Anderson** decided after 15 years in Los Angeles to become a U.S. citizen. Passed the test, too.

24 star **Kiefer Sutherland** made it official, filing for divorce from his wife of eight years, **Elizabeth Kelly Winn**.

Avril Lavigne (above) took a swipe at **Britney Spears** on BBC Radio, saying the pop princess "dresses like a showgirl" and dances "like a ho."

Gross-out comic **Tom Green** hosts the Fifth Annual Golden Trailer Awards—that's right, awards for previews—on May 25 in Los Angeles.

Canadian-born director **Allan Moyle** (*Pump up the Volume*, *New Waterford Girl*) is in Calgary making an unauthorized TV movie on the life of **Michael Jackson** for the U.S. music channel VH1.

Releases | Back to the ice age and the '80s

MORRISSEY *YOU ARE THE QUARRY* (MAY 18)



Proving nothing's better than the real thing, Morrissey releases his first album in seven years—at the same time that imitation of and reverence for the former **Smiths**' front man is running high. *You Are the Quarry* is a bit uneven and heavy-handed—with vitriolic outbursts at both his native land, the U.K., and his adopted home, the U.S.—but no one does sad quite like he does.

THE ORGAN *GRAB THAT GUN* (MAY 25)



One of those Morrissey offspring, this all-female Vancouver band was signed by **Nickelback**'s **Chad Kroeger** and has recorded an impressive debut. Like their '80s new-wave influences, these twenty-somethings can be droning, but what they lack in chord changes they make up for in witty, disaffected lyrics (*We should go / down to the mall / look at people / judge them all*) and haunting vocals, courtesy of forlorn lead singer **Katie Sketch**.

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (MAY 28)

It's only spring, but the summer movie blockbuster season is in full swing, thanks to the May triple threat of *Troy*, *Shrek 2* and *The Day After Tomorrow*. The latter, a return of the ice-age disaster flick, could further energize **Dennis Quaid**'s career and put **Jake Gyllenhaal** (*Moonlight Mile*) on the mainstream map—they make the most appealing cinematic father-son team since *The Patriot*'s **Mel Gibson** and **Heath Ledger**. SHANDA DEZIEL



CHRIS SMITH; AARON HARRIS/CP; BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP/CP

CLOSINGNOTES



John Intini starts a sentence ... Cal Ripken Jr. finishes it

Many people say **Cal Ripken Jr.** saved baseball. The 1994 players' strike and subsequent lockout took a toll on fans. But the former Baltimore Orioles long-time shortstop re-energized the sport with his historic playing streak—surpassing New York Yankee legend **Lou Gehrig**'s record of 2,130 consecutive games in 1995. Now the "Iron Man" has co-written *Play Baseball the Ripken Way*, an instructional book for kids. Rip ken, 43, recently finished *Maclean's* Assistant Editor John Intini's sentences.

I DON'T WEAR MY WORLD SERIES RING . . . because I banged it around too much.

MY FIRST LITTLE LEAGUE HOMER . . . was a line drive over the left fielder's head. I was playing without outfield fences back then so I had to earn it the old-fashioned way and ran it out. I was about 9.

IF I COULD SPEAK WITH LOU GEHRIG . . . I'd compare notes. The streak was an extension of a simple approach for me and I assume it was the same for him.

IF I COULD HAVE ONE MOMENT ON THE FIELD BACK . . . I'd like my last at bat. I wanted desperately to get a hit. I had a pretty good swing but flew out to centre.

THE TOUGHEST GUY I EVER FACED . . . was **Len Barker** with the Cleveland Indians. He had a perfect game in the big leagues, and it was no accident. He had some great stuff. I could never see his breaking ball.

PEOPLE SAY I SAVED BASEBALL WITH THE STREAK . . . but I don't fully believe it. It was good timing. People were longing for something in the game to cling to that was good.

FOR MORE "FINISH THE SENTENCES" VISIT WWW.MACLEANS.CA/PEOPLE

1. Selected as a pitcher in the second round (48th overall) of the 1978 amateur draft.
2. Sat out on Sept. 19, 1998, after 2,632 consecutive games.
3. Started the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, which introduces underprivileged kids to baseball.

Books | In the wake of the victorious Spanish Armada

Historians love to play "What If?"—in part to remind themselves that things did not have to happen the way they did, but mostly because it's fun. The 12 writers who have short pieces in Andrew Roberts' *What Might Have Been* (McArthur) seem to have enjoyed the exercise. The publisher calls them "leading historians," which certainly should be taken in the spirit of good clean fun, since one of them is David Frum, who offers a sophomoric hatchet job on President Al Gore's response to 9/11. But most of the contributors—including Conrad Black on FDR and Pearl Harbor—are recognized experts who tackle major historical turning points. What if the Spanish Armada had managed to land in England in 1588, or if Archduke Franz Ferdinand had survived Sarajevo, or if Napoleon or Hitler had won in Russia? There's even a 13th question—readers are free to speculate on exactly what it is—raised solely by the cover illustration: a man standing on the moon with a Nazi flag behind him.



BestSellers

Fiction

		POSITION LAST WEEK
1.	**THE DA VINCI CODE,** Dan Brown (49)	1
2.	**THE PRINCES OF IRELAND,** Edward Rutherfurd (9)	2
3.	**SHARPE'S ESCAPE,** Bernard Cornwell (4)	4
4.	**THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN,** Mitch Albom (21)	3
5.	**THE NARROWS,** Michael Connelly (1)	
6.	**THE FULL CUPBOARD OF LIFE,** Alexander McCall Smith (1)	
7.	**CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?** Sophie Kinsella (3)	7
8.	**THE LAST LIGHT OF THE SUN,** Guy Gavriel Kay (10)	8
9.	**CONFUSION,** Neal Stephenson (4)	10
10.	**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME,** Mark Haddon (26)	6

Non-fiction

1.	**EATS, SHOOTS AND LEAVES,** Lynne Truss (5)	1
2.	**THE PAGAN CHRIST** Tom Harpur (9)	3
3.	**PLAN OF ATTACK,** Bob Woodward (3)	2
4.	**DARK AGE AHEAD,** Jane Jacobs (1)	
5.	**JUNO,** Ted Barris (11)	7
6.	**SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL,** Roméo Dallaire (28)	6
7.	**AGAINST ALL ENEMIES,** Richard Clarke (6)	4
8.	**HEGEMONY OR SURVIVAL,** Noam Chomsky (23)	5
9.	**GENGHIS KHAN** Jack Weatherford (2)	8
10.	**WHO KILLED THE CANADIAN MILITARY?,** Jack Granatstein (10)	10

() Weeks on list

Compiled by Brian Bethune

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S



YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

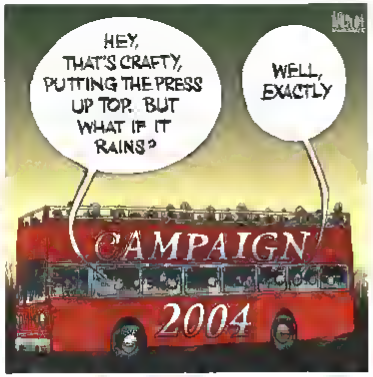
Just in case you miss it, here's what will happen in the coming election

ELECTION TIME: Here are my predictions, most contradictory, some probably wrong

ADS: Parties whose ads feature their own leader will rise in the polls. Parties whose ads feature another party's leader will fall. It doesn't always work that way. It will this time.

BINGO: British reporters covering Tony Blair's campaign in 2001 amused themselves by playing "battle bus bingo." They wrote down Blair's favourite cliché phrases on strips of paper, paid a pound each to get into the contest, then each drew three strips of paper at random. The first reporter to hear his picked clichés from Blair's mouth won the pot.

On Jack Layton's bus, the strips of paper will include the phrases "corporate interests," "coal baron" and "Federation of Canadian Municipalities." The winning hand on Paul Martin's bus will without doubt include "outside the box" and "transformative change."



CLARK, JOE: Will inexplicably become newsworthy during the campaign.

CUNNINGHAM, BILL: Paul Martin rewarded this apple-cheeked British Columbia Liberal's bootlicking fealty with an appointment as the party's nominee in Burnaby Douglas. The Liberal riding association executive promptly quit. Cunningham is actually more popular in the Ottawa press gallery than in Burnaby Douglas: he's *such* a disaster that we're praying he'll get elected and come entertain us.

GORE, AL: The vice-president disavowed a decade of achievement and ran on a promise of "change." Worked out well, didn't it?

HARPER, STEPHEN: Easy to underestimate.

HEALTH CARE: It's like sex. Nobody gets enough, everyone lies about it, and you really don't want to have to pay.

KNOCKOUT: Reporters are the only people dumb enough to show up at a debate looking for boxers. Every story after the televised leaders' debates will begin: "There was no knockout punch last night as []."

But voters are looking for governments, not boxers. The winner of the leaders' debates will be the person who looks calm and sounds ready to discuss all the various challenges a government faces. The loser will be the one who spends the night reciting his scripted knockout lines.

LAPIERRE, JEAN: Martin's star in Quebec. Will certainly embarrass his party before election day.

LAYTON, JACK: Easy to underestimate.

LONG SHOT: Once again, Gilles Duceppe will show up for the English language leaders' debate. Maybe *this* will be the year the Bloc Quebecois breaks through in Manitoba!

MARTIN, PAUL: Harder and harder to underestimate.

MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION EVER? Uh, no.

MULRONEY, BRIAN: Will inexplicably become newsworthy during the campaign.

NARCOLEPSY: Will Stephen Harper make it through all of his speeches without actually falling asleep?

PARIZEAU, JACQUES: Will inexplicably become newsworthy during the campaign.

SCANDAL: Less and less useful as a political issue. Within days after Auditor General Sheila Fraser's report in February, Liberal voters had either abandoned the Liberals—or looked elsewhere and returned to the Liberals.

The voters who've moved back don't think the Liberals are more *trustworthy* than the Conservatives and New Democrats, they think the Liberals are more *competent*. This is incredible to Conservatives and New Democrats, but there it is. They can't pick up votes by talking about Liberal wickedness. They will talk about Liberal wickedness anyway.

TEMPER: Paul Martin and Jack Layton are famous for their short tempers. A political campaign is five solid weeks of bad news. Guys: count to 10.

TOUR BUS: Last week Peter Mansbridge's column announced that political leaders' tours are a waste of time, which is why the CBC will have its own bus travelling the country *avoiding* politicians. Since I'll be spending the campaign on the pointless leaders' tours, Peter's column kind of scared me.

Tell you what. If Peter leads *The National* with more stories from the CBC bus than he does from Paul Martin's, Stephen Harper's and Jack Layton's, I'll buy him dinner. And if this election turns out to be about politicians the way the last 20 elections were, I'm sure Peter will be equally gracious in defeat.

VICTORY: It will go to the Liberals, barely: a few seats short of a majority. Martin will send his emissaries out to blame Jean Chretien. He will govern after the election precisely as he's governed since December.

Don't like these predictions? Complain if you like, or better yet, vote. M

To comment: backpage@macleans.ca
Read Paul Wells's Weblog, "Inkless Wells," at *www.macleans.ca/paulwells*

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"A true hot-rod sedan."
Car and Driver, 07/03.

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Alan E. McPhee, Canada.

"If power corrupts, prepare to be seduced."
Michael Bettencourt, The Globe and Mail.

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